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Getting covered under the new health care law might take you more than one sitting.

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Global study finds that the world is not ready for an aging population.

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Federal govt shutdown impacts NMI programs

» CNMI seeks guidance from federal grantors

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Some federally funded programs in the CNMI, including those at the Commonwealth Health Center, will be impacted by the first U.S. government shutdown in 17 years but the full extent and duration of these effects will not be known until the next few days.

RELATED NEWS

➤ Americans anxious, irritated as govt shuts down. PAGE 14

Some federal employees stationed here have also started receiving furlough notices.

The CNMI is ahead of Washington, D.C. by one day so some federal agencies here were also still waiting for specific notices from their main offices as of yesterday afternoon.

Roxanne Diaz, CHC Division of Public Health director, confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that some of their programs, including the Women, Infant and Children, or WIC, program, are impacted by the

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'Fund assets now federal court-protected'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The idea that all assets of the NMI Retirement Fund being moved into the settlement fund under the control of federal court following U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Francis Tydingco-Gatewood's approval of the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action is "really a wonderful thing," according to Johnson's counsel, Margery Bronster.

In an interview with reporters shortly after Tydingco-Gatewood gave her final approval on the settlement agreement Monday afternoon, Bronster said this means that the money

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PSS CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Sablan: 15-pct. floor has become ceiling

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Even as the Public School Systems celebrates 25 years of autonomy this month, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan laments the system's ever-shrinking budget and even bemoaned that its 15-percent share of total government earmarks is no longer enough to sustain PSS and, in fact, has become the ceiling.

"Government revenues have gone down. Years back when the revenue was $200 million it was OK. But now that the level has gone down to $120 million, the 15 percent of $120 million is a little bit difficult for us [to work with]," Sablan said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* following yesterday's Education Day Proclamation Signing and Awards Recognition at the Board of Education conference room in Susupe.

Sablan said her office and the BOE have long fretted about the dwindling government revenue, which in turn has resulted in PSS getting smaller budgets

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MARK RABAGO
Former governor Pedro P. Tenorio's children receive an award of recognition on his behalf from the Public School System and the Board of Education during yesterday's Education Day Proclamation Signing and Awards Recognition at the Board of Education conference room in Susupe.

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Local

CPA: Freedom Air Chapter 11 filing not unexpected

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Commonwealth Ports Authority officials said yesterday that Freedom Air's filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy last Friday was not really unexpected. CPA executive director MaryAnn Lizama and board member Benigno M. Sablan said they understand the beleaguered inter-island carrier's decision to enter into Chapter 11.

The move allows Freedom Air to propose a plan for profitability post-bankruptcy, while continuing to operate.

More importantly, its Chapter 11 filing allows Freedom Air to temporarily hold creditors, such as CPA, at bay. It owes the ports authority $1.23 million in aviation charges and facility use.

"We can't do anything. Usually when there's bankruptcy filing there's an automatic stay [on payment demands]. The courts will assign a trustee *ad litem* through the course of the bankruptcy filing and Freedom Air can continue using our facilities," said Lizama in a phone interview with the *Saipan Tribune*.

She disclosed that CPA might have had an inkling about Freedom Air's decision to file for Chapter 11.

"With regard to whether we knew it was coming or we didn't, it's still a process. I have no ill feelings about it. It's a process they have to go through. We will abide by the process," added Lizama. "They can continue their operations until the courts say no and other debtors like us can't do anything about it. We will respect the courts and the process."

Sablan said that Chapter 11 is part of the democratic process and that CPA has no choice but to respect the courts on the matter of Freedom Air's decision to file for bankruptcy.

He said the Chapter 11 filing will probably be adjudicated in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Like Lizama, Sablan admitted that he already had an idea that Freedom Air would file for bankruptcy.

Meanwhile, he described as already moot the CPA board's move on Monday to reverse its earlier decision to give Freedom Air until December to settle its $1.2 million arrears to CPA.

"We wanted three months but I don't know why they changed it to 30 days when its already moot, extremely moot," he said considering the carrier's Chapter 11 filing.

For the record, Sablan said he abstained on the vote, giving Freedom Air only until the end of October to settle its debt with CPA.

As it stands, he said, Freedom Air has 120 days to reorganize itself under Chapter 11. After four months, he expects the CPA board to put down the hammer once again on Freedom Air and require it to pay the full amount it owes the agency or be evicted.

Last Sept. 18, the CPA board gave Freedom Air until Dec. 31, 2013, to settle its unpaid obligations with CPA, especially the passenger facility charges as required by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration.

The board had said that failure to do would force them to evict the company from CPA premises with finality. That decision was reversed during a special board meeting last Monday.

It was earlier revealed that Freedom Air, on many occasions, was issued termination notices, of which none were actually implemented.

Raising awareness of disability employment, breast cancer

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

"In a way, I owe my success story to the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and its director," Office of Personnel Management director Sid Seman told the crowd in the governor's conference room.

Seman is a former client of OVR, an agency that provides services to people with disabilities to promote independent living, skills development, and eventual employment.

"I would also like to thank the governor for continuing to have me gainfully employed," Seman said, and the crowd cheered.

Seman was among those who witnessed Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider's sign a proclamation declaring October as 2013 National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Inos and Hofschneider, in their proclamation, said workplaces welcoming of the talents of all people, including individuals with disabilities, are a critical part of the CNMI's efforts to build an inclusive community and strong economy.

"In this spirit, the CNMI is recognizing National Disability Employment Awareness Month this October to raise awareness about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities," they said.

Activities are lined up for the monthlong celebration, including the Autism Society of the CNMI's Quiz Nite at Kanoa Resort & Spa in Susupe at 6pm on Saturday, Oct. 5; employer workshops on Oct. 10, 16, and 17 on the three islands; an OVR Open House on Oct. 11; and a Center for Independent Living Open House on Oct. 31.

Breast cancer awareness

"Early detection is your best protection," Joanne C. Ogo, cancer registrar at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Non-Communicable Disease Program, told the crowd to witness yesterday's signing of a proclamation declaring October 2013 National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

In the crowd were Commonwealth Cancer Association executive director Juan L. Babauta, health care professionals, advocates, community members, and Tanapag Elementary School students.

Inos and Hofschneider, in their proclamation, urged all women in the CNMI to discuss a preventive and screening program with their healthcare provider and become aware that they are at risk of getting breast cancer.

"We also ask all citizens to encourage the women in their lives to do the same," Inos and Hofschneider said.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among CNMI women, and is the second leading cause of cancer death in women nationally, exceeded only by lung cancer.

Mammogram, an x-ray picture of the breast, is recognized as the most effective method of detecting breast changes that may be cancer long before physical symptoms can be seen or felt in women 40 years of age and older.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, both seated, listen to a brief presentation by Commonwealth Health Corp.'s Joanne C. Ogo, left, at yesterday's signing of a proclamation declaring October 2013 National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Also in photo are health advocates and Tanapag Elementary School students.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider are flanked by advocates and community members after signing a proclamation yesterday on Capital Hill declaring October 2013 National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Governor: One uncertainty is now out of the way

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A day after the U.S. District Court granted final approval to the Retirement Fund global settlement deal, Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday he's relieved because "at least you have that uncertainty out of the way," and on to another set of uncertainty involving finding millions of dollars more to pay retirees and other obligations.

"The only uncertainty right now is to see how we can fund the annual minimum requirements," the governor, who took a hands-on approach in the global settlement agreement, told reporters after signing two proclamations yesterday morning on Capital Hill.

The Senate's action today, meanwhile, will be key to whether or not active defined benefit plan members will be able to withdraw the rest of their contributions.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) separately said yesterday that the plan is to act on Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero's (Ind-Saipan) House Joint Resolution 18-10, House Draft 1, acknowledging and approving the settlement deal "as required for the final disbursement of employee contributions."

The remainder, or $42 million, of DB contributions from the NMI Retirement Fund pursuant to Public Laws 17-82 and 18-2 will be released upon final approval of the settlement agreement.

But a legislative approval is needed before this can be actually disbursed. During the preliminary approval, $10 million was disbursed.

These amounts, however, do not include the interest earned on members' contributions.

The government would have to find another source of funds for this, just like the restoration of the 25 percent deferred retiree pension.

Opt-outs

The governor reiterated a few administrative issues that need to be addressed.

He said he needs to sit down with the settlement fund trustee, Joyce C.H. Tang, as to the existing Retirement Fund staff, class members—both retirees and active—and the 16 that opted out.

"I need to know how they're supposed to divvy up the funds. The settlement fund would exclude those folks who opted out," Inos said.

The governor pointed out that the 16 who opted out made contributions to the Fund and "they can't be left [out] in the system without anything."

There are also administrative costs to think about.

Inos said he is reconsidering right now an earlier planned executive order moving some previous Fund activities to some departments such as Finance. These activities could include disbursements for those who opted out.

"I still have to meet with the staff and go over various options," he added.

Growing the economy

Inos reiterated that the CNMI government will do its best to meet its obligations under the settlement agreement.

"That goes with the anticipation that the economy will continue to grow. We should never expect the economy to go down and once we set our goal with the economy going up, then we should strive for that, work harder, so we can meet that," he said.

The governor plans to convene another joint leadership meeting with the Legislature, now that the court has already granted final approval to the settlement deal in the Betty Johnson class action against the CNMI government and the Retirement Fund.

The Legislature sent last week to the governor a video lottery bill, now under review.

While lawmakers have yet to pass a compromise bill on electronic gaming, there are other revenue-generating bills that are still under committee review.

Pension obligation bond

Inos said the government is "moving" with its pension obligation bond plan.

He said he just had a phone conference with the bond underwriter/counsel yesterday morning.

"We are going to have to meet and go out and talk to bond buyers," he said, also hoping they would get a "favorable" rating to get a reduced interest rate.

The pension obligation bond law authorizes the CNMI to borrow up to $300 million to help the Retirement Fund.

But the governor said they would parcel it out "based on cash flow and costs associated with the issuance." The government could start with $40 million to $50 million or less.

"We discussed that a little bit [Tuesday] morning in the [phone] conference. Hopefully, we will get something more firm in the next two weeks," he added.

Mariana House

Inos also said yesterday that the Mariana House in Washington, D.C. is now being listed for sale.

"We're selling it for, I believe $900,000 to $1 million," he added.

The Mariana House has been shuttered for four years since it stopped being the official residence of the then CNMI resident representative to Washington, D.C.

For years, the government has been torn between leasing and selling this property in the nation's capital.

Man accused of stalking acquitted

BY FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho acquitted yesterday a 25-year-old man accused of stalking a woman, saying the case is actually about two adults "sneaking around to have sex."

At a bench trial, Camacho ruled that the government has failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that Kay Amandus is guilty of stalking in the first degree.

"The stalking law does not prohibit sexual intercourse between two consenting adults, even if a protective parent does not approve that his adult daughter should have sex outside of marriage," the judge said.

Camacho stated, however, that he does not condone disrespectful behavior and admonished Amandus for failing to pay respect to the woman's father and his home.

"Kay Amandus and others like him are Casanovas, Don Juans, disrespectful scoundrels and a constant headache for every protective father. In history as well as modern times, young men and women seek to have sexual rendezvous outside of the knowledge of their parents," the judge said.

Court-appointed counsel Victorino Torres represented Amandus at trial. Assistant attorney general Brian Flaherty prosecuted the case.

In his ruling, Camacho said it appears to the court from testimonies that Amandus was repeatedly attempting to meet up with the 20-year-old woman in 2012 and, when caught, would retreat and then try again.

Camacho said that Amandus would circumvent the father's protective efforts to shield his daughter by sneaking through the window for a sexual tryst with her.

In this case, Camacho said, the father only knew half the story as he believed the man was sneaking inside his home to commit criminal acts upon his family.

"It's easy to understand why he would report these incidents to the police. The father is just trying to protect his family," he said.

What the father did not know, the judge pointed out, is that the daughter welcomed these nightly visits from Amandus.

"The record is clear. The sex was consen[sual]. The two people involved are adults. There is no crime committed here," Camacho said.

3 men arrested for separate domestic spats

Three men were taken to court on Monday after being arrested over the weekend for separate domestic violence incidents on Saipan.

Benjamin Joseph Fitial, 37, and Fermin Q. Castro, 25, were detained for assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

Benzi Ngeskebei, 27, was held for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Fitial is being kept on a $1,250 cash bail, Castro on $5,000 cash, and Ngeskebei on $20,000 cash.

According to police detective Therese S. Kintoki, Fitial and his common-law wife had an argument Friday morning after she confronted him for hitting her in the face with a towel Thursday night.

Fitial accused his common-law wife of cheating on him and allegedly slapped her in the face. She ran to a neighbor's house where she called the police.

In Castro's case, police detective Flora Danica B. Aguon stated in her report that the defendant allegedly choked his common-law wife behind the Gold Beach Hotel in Garapan Saturday morning.

Aguon said that, according to the wife, Castro never came home after getting his paycheck, but called her on the phone Saturday morning, asking her to have his nephew bring him water at the back of Gold Beach Hotel because he was thirty.

The wife went behind the hotel and threw Castro's pillow and blanket at his feet. This allegedly prompted Castro to choke her. When she managed to get away, Castro ran off.

The wife said it was not the first time that Castro assaulted her and that she had filed several complaints against him in the past.

In Ngeskebei's case, police detective Isapen Bokuku said the defendant repeatedly hit his sister with a baseball bat and punched her at their house in Koblerville last Sept. 17.

Bokuku said the sister managed to escape by jumping out from a window and tearing the screen. Injured, the victim ran to Turnkey Housing where she called the police.

The victim told police that Ngeskebei got mad after their mother could not give him money. After learning that their mother had left the house, the defendant allegedly beat up his sister. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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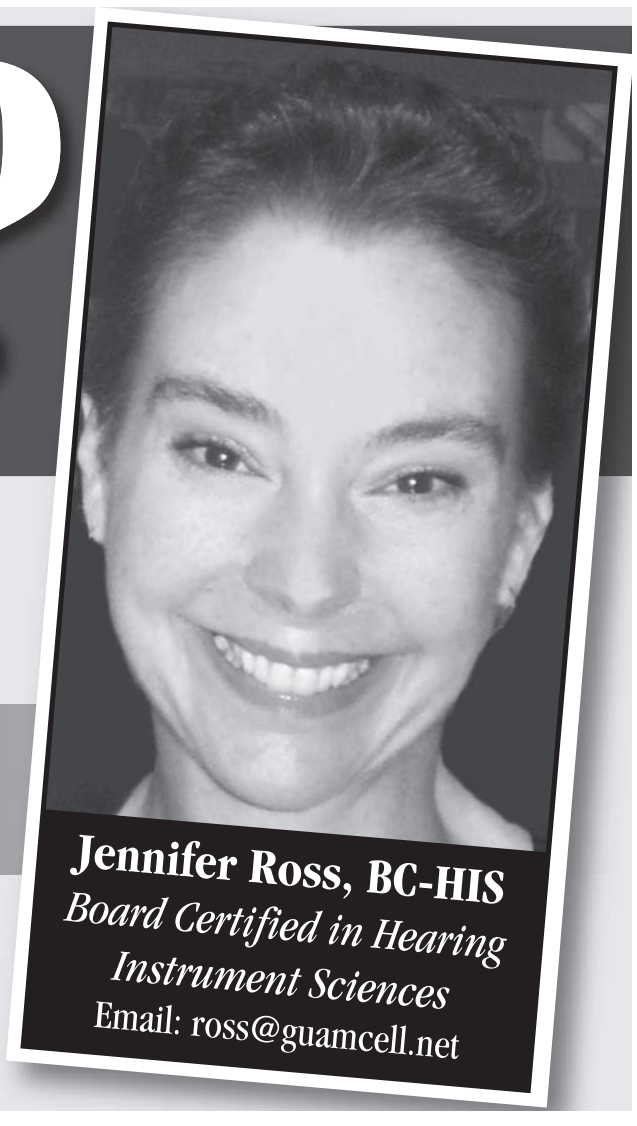

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Inos urges OAG to go after domestic violence offenders

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos urged the Office of the Attorney General yesterday to vigorously prosecute offenders of domestic violence.

As this developed, the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and The Family Violence Task Force presented its "Bridge of Light Award" to police detective Flora Danica B. Aguon for showing, among other things, leadership, advocacy, and providing community education about domestic and sexual violence awareness.

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation sponsored the award, together with a gift package that consisted of a one-night stay at Fiesta Hotel & Spa Saipan, a self-care package, dinner, and gift certificate. The coalition also gave Aguon a plaque and cash prize.

» Detective Aguon gets 'Bridge of Light Award'

Plaque of recognitions were also handed to the nominees: Fire investigator Patrick George, John L. Aguon, Nikita Cabrera, sexual assault nurse examiner Mila Cultura, and Avery Hocog of Rota Health Center.

Inos said he was surprised with the statistics about domestic violence cases in the CNMI provided by Attorney General Joey San Nicolas.

"We've got to put this thing to a stop," said Inos in signing a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. "Are you up to the challenge? Then let's do it!"

San Nicolas said that of the 280 criminal cases they handled so far this year, 156 or almost half are domestic violence cases.

"That's a huge number!" he said.

San Nicolas said a lot more can be done by reaching out to the coalition, community, and law enforcement.

FUND

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will be in the settlement fund that court-appointed settlement trustee attorney Joyce Tang will be watching and administering.

"Although we are not thrilled about the fact that right now retirees will receive 75 percent of their benefits, we are very happy with all the protections," Bronster said.

In fact, she said, Tydingco-Gatewood recognizes that the settlement agreement is in the best interest of the class members.

On the final approval of the settlement agreement, Bronster said the outcome couldn't be better for the retirees.

"I am so happy. I think that this is absolutely a terrific day!" she added.

Bronster pointed out that the court not only approved the settlement agreement but also entered the consent judgment for $779 million in case the CNMI government fails to meet its obligations.

She said the CNMI government has a number of obligations in the settlement agreement, it has to meet certain minimum payments each year, and is required to come through and conform to what the settlement agreement says.

"If they don't, then we can go and ask the court for the right to enforce the consent judgment," she said.

Bronster hopes that having that consent judgment as a backstop will enable the CNMI government to recognize that it has to meet its obligations.

On the issue of Johnson counsels' petition for attorney's fees and costs, Bronster said the matter is separate and will be dealt later.

Bronster said one of the things that she really was happy about was that all of the noise about the attorney's fees is something that is not going to affect the Fund's beneficiaries.

She reiterated that the attorneys' fees and costs will be paid by the CNMI government, as agreed to in the settlement agreement.

"But the settlement agreement has been approved and it is final and I am thrilled," she said.

The attorney's fees range from a minimum of $40 million and a maximum of $60 million.

Asked if they are still demanding the same amount, Bronster said they told the court and the CNMI government that they are willing to talk to them about working out something that will be acceptable both to the government and Johnson's counsels.

"But unfortunately, we haven't come to an agreement," she said. "We tried before the settlement. We tried after the settlement. And we've been trying recently as last week. And what the judge said is try again and so we will," Bronster said.

Tydingco-Gatewood did not rule on Johnson counsels' petition for attorneys' fees and costs and instead ordered them and the CNMI government to discuss the matter before Hawaii chief bankruptcy judge Robert Faris, who presided over the settlement discussions.

In a separate interview, settlement fund trustee Tang said the final approval of the settlement agreement is an extraordinary event as no underfunded pension program in the nation has reached a similar settlement.

Tang said the settlement gives the retirees the possible 75 percent or more of their benefits and also insurance.

Tang credited judges Tydingco-Gatewod and Faris, Johnson's counsels, Gov. Eloy Inos, Fund trustee *ad litem* Joseph Razzano, and all the people at the Fund who worked hard behind the scene.

Tang hopes that they will be able to work with Inos, the government, and the Legislature to effectuate the terms of the agreement.

Tang said the initial phase is to work on the transition from the old Fund to the settlement fund and transfer of the assets.

The next step, she said, is on how to improve services and to provide information and data to the retirees in a timely manner.

As to the amount of Fund assets now under the settlement fund, Tang said there will be a full accounting and that she will submit a report to the court in the middle of November 2013.

SABLAN

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for several years.

"The board and I have discussed this and it's something that is a concern to us because you know we don't want the 15 percent to be the ceiling. It's something that needs to be reviewed so we can continue to support public education through the funds that are needed," she said.

Despite this, Sablan said there's still a lot to celebrate, as PSS commemorates 25 years of public education this year.

"I remember back in 1988 when this public law was passed, one of the reasons was to get the autonomy of the Public School System through the State Board of Education and I believe that was really an exceptional move," she said.

Sablan was alluding to Public Law 6-10, which was signed on Oct. 25, 1998. It repealed P.L. 3-43 and set in motion the former Department of Education's expansion, growth, and progress to what is now known as the CNMI Public School System.

"Over the years we've seen tremendous accomplishments and achievements with the State Board of Education taking a lead role in making sure that decisions are made for our children in the public school system," she said.

For Education Month this October, Sablan said that PSS and BOE have lined up five weeks of celebration that honors and recognizes public education in the CNMI.

"Today marks the beginning of that public education. We had Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, State Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero all signing the proclamation, which is very historic. Normally you don't see three people signing a proclamation."

This year's celebration will have the theme "Embracing Differences, Enlightening Minds, and Inspiring Greatness."

For the first week of Education Month, Sablan is urging everyone to honk their car horns for education. The second week will be Spirit Week where PSS and BOE will be highlighting not only the profession of teaching but also other careers within the PSS such as school counselor, administration, and related services.

The third week will have Takeover Day. Sablan is inviting parents and volunteers to come out and take over their campuses and "spend a few hours in our classroom, working with our students and helping them."

Week 4 is all about Education Day with PSS and BOE and celebrating one specific day to give recognition and honor to the staff. Oct. 22 will be Rota's Education Day, Oct. 24 is Tinian's, and Oct. 25 will be Saipan's turn to commemorate Education Day.

Oct. 25 coincidentally is the actual 25th anniversary of public education, Sablan said.

The final week of Education Month is all about promoting individual schools and PSS programs.

"We're excited about the things we've lined up and we hope that everybody will come out and join us celebrate public education in the Commonwealth," she said.

BOE chair Guerrero said this month is a good time to remember why the then-Department of Education wanted autonomy from the central government in the first place.

"The whole idea of becoming an autonomous agency…was to remove political interference. It seems like every governor that has come in had his own agenda and also the Legislature has its own pet projects in terms of education.

"So the whole idea was to remove it from politics and that's basically what the constitutional amendment did. When you remove politics you have non-partisan board members who work with the commissioner to move public education forward and education has been transformed. Compared to what it used to be, we're more accountable, more transparent, and even to the extent that when you talk about accountability it's not certain people that you make accountable, it's everybody that's being accountable, including teachers."

Yesterday's proclamation signing also saw PSS and BOE handing out awards of recognition to the Executive Branch, represented by Inos and Hofschneider; the Legislature, represented by Reps. Larry Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), the Saipan Mayor's Office, represented by Henry Hofschneider, and former governor Pedro P. Tenorio, who were represented by his children.

FEDERAL

From Page 1

shutdown.

"But we do have contingency plans in place to ensure that our operations don't get affected. As for the WIC program, we have to prioritize the resources," Diaz said.

She said they will issue a statement today on the specific programs impacted by the shutdown.

The WIC program is a federally funded supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children up to 5 years old.

Congress failed to pass a budget before the midnight deadline to keep the government open at the start of fiscal year 2014 on Oct. 1.

Congress is so bitterly divided over President Barack Obama's signature 2010 health-care initiative that they failed to strike a deal to fund federal agencies. The results of the impasse are staggering. ***See sidebar***

'Worrisome'

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in a statement yesterday afternoon, said the CNMI government will seek guidance from federal grantors regarding the U.S. government shutdown's impact on federally funded personnel and programs here.

"At this time, there is no telling how long this shutdown will last and how much the grants we receive will be affected," he said.

Inos has also asked the Office of Grants Management to communicate with grantors, such as the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs and others "to give us official notice of what steps need to be taken so that we can properly inform federally funded employees here who may be affected."

The governor said both sides of Congress need to keep working toward an agreement in order to ensure that employees and programs get back to work right away.

"It is worrisome because in the case of the employees here in the Commonwealth, the local government does not have the capacity or reserve funds to cushion any void in federal funding. Our leaders at the national level just have to work this out so that critical federally funded services can remain available for everyone, including us here in the Commonwealth and the other territories," Inos said.

Drawdowns

CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold I. Palacios said if the federal government shutdown is prolonged, the impacts could be felt on federal grant drawdowns.

At DLNR alone, a little over 40 employees are funded by federal grants, he said.

"So far, these employees are not affected because of the grant cycle. But if this shutdown goes on for a long period of time, that may affect them and the programs they handle plus the drawdowns," he said.

CNMI Division of Environmental Quality director Frank Rabauliman shared the DLNR secretary's concerns about possible delays in federal grant drawdowns.

"We are closely monitoring the current issues. Like I said, the only thing that may be impacted, and I could be corrected on this one, are the drawdowns," he said.

He said his office also received notification that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration office on Saipan will be closed because of the shutdown.

"I haven't heard from the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency] and we will wait for communication from them," he said.

DEQ had just received a $1.7-million grant from EPA for fiscal year 2014. This is one of three yearly grants that DEQ receives from EPA, and the first one is almost always the biggest amount, Rabauliman said.

Park services

Jason Beatty, chief ranger at the American Memorial Park in Garapan, separately said that they "have not received a standing order yet" as of yesterday afternoon.

"But if we receive one, we have a plan in place. Facilities at the American Memorial Park will be closed and secured for an indefinite period of time. We will cease operations. The amphitheater, the administrative office will be closed, there won't be any special permit issued," said Beatty, one of 11 National Parks Service personnel on Saipan.

Closures of parks and museums under the U.S. National Park Service are among the examples of services affected by a government shutdown.

Some 800,000 federal workers and services out of 2 million will also be furloughed. In Guam alone, hundreds of federal employees face furloughs.

Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-Guam), in a statement on the indefinite federal government shutdown, said she "regret[s] that partisan politics have led us to this unnecessary shutdown."

"I am concerned about federal employees and contractors who may be furloughed and who will not be able to receive the same retroactive pay that was offered to those were furloughed during the government shutdown in 1996. I share the frustration of millions of Americans across our country, including many of you from Guam whom I have heard from over the weekend and over the past few weeks," she said.

MARK RABAGO
Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, center, pose with the Northern Marianas Humanities Council board of directors and staff after a proclamation signing declaring October CNMI Humanities Month on Monday at the Governor's Office.

Bevy of events lined up for Humanities Month

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council has lined up a slew of activities this October as part of its celebration of CNMI Humanities Month.

Humanities Council executive director Scott Russell gave details about the lineup on Monday after Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider signed a proclamation declaring October as CNMI Humanities Month at the Governor's Office conference room.

Russell said the *Humanities Half Hour* aired over 97.9 The Kat will feature the history of four villages on Saipan. Hosted by Catherine Perry every Sunday from 2pm to 2:30pm, the program will examine the histories of Garapan, Chalan Kanoa, Tanapag, and San Roque in the next four Sundays.

The Humanities Council will also host a Community Lecture Series at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater on three Tuesdays starting Oct. 8.

The first installment is "Reflections on Saipan's Transition from WWII to Today" and will be presented by Guadalupe Borja-Robinson.

Former congressman William Torres, Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho, and architect Herman B. Camacho would then tag-team in presenting "Saipan and Northern Islands Leadership Kiosku Project" on Oct. 15.

The series concludes on Oct. 22 with local historian Don Farrell's presentation "Marianas Reunification Efforts."

All three lectures will start at 6pm and admission is free.

"These feature presentations were made by participants from the CNMI in last August's 2nd Marianas History Conference in Guam," said Russell.

The council will launch on Oct. 17 a searchable DVD compilation of Ruth Tighe's "On My Mind" columns. "It was put together by Bud White and is fully searchable. It goes back 20 years and will be given to libraries and other interested agencies," said Russell.

On Oct. 23, the council will hold its 10th Annual Valentine N. Sengebau Poetry Competition at the AMP Visitors Center Theater beginning 6pm.

"This is open to junior high and high school students in the CNMI. This has been an ongoing program and popular for student and we're looking for a good turnout. Kids are really good and it will be an enjoyable event," he said.

The council's biggest event of the year, the Governor's Humanities Award, would then be held on Oct. 24 at a still-to-determined venue.

"We will recognize individuals with outstanding contributions to the humanities, including those who contributed in writing local history and those preserving traditional local practices," said Russell. "We will also award a Lifetime Achievement Award in the humanities. If you know anyone who is worthy of that award, feel free to nominate them. Nomination forms are available on our website and submission deadline is on Oct. 11."

Inos, for his part, thanked the Humanities Council for enriching and enhancing the lives of the CNMI community through its many program and activities. He said he was especially fond of novelist P.F. Kluge's presentations about the history of the Trust Territory and the CNMI in July.

Inos, who said he wants to become a volunteer for the council, said he already looking forward to Farrell's lecture about the failed reunification of the CNMI and Guam. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Penalty eyed if the Legislature fails to pass budget by Aug. 30

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) wants to suspend CNMI lawmakers' expenditure authority if they fail to pass a new budget by Aug. 30 of each year.

Taimanao said the CNMI Planning and Budgeting Act requires the Legislature to complete the annual budgeting process on or before Sept. 1 of each year but this provision has not been enforced in the past "because there is no penalty provision" for failure to comply with such provision.

In her Senate Bill 18-37, Taimanao proposes to end each lawmaker's expenditure authority until such time as a new budget bill is passed by the Legislature.

"The purpose of this legislation is to provide a penalty provision if the Legislature fails to complete the annual appropriation act on or before Aug. 30 each year," she said.

Taimanao said this will give the governor 20 days to review the annual appropriation act.

Her bill also changes the Sept. 1 timeline to Aug. 30 for the Legislature's passage of a budget bill.

The CNMI government shut down for almost two weeks in 2010 when the House and Senate were deadlocked on a fiscal year 2010 budget bill.

Since then, the CNMI has dodged a shutdown. From 2011 to 2012, the Legislature passed a budget bill close to the deadline, giving the governor only a few days to review the spending measure.

It was only this year that the Legislature was able to pass a budget bill by Sept. 11, well ahead of the Oct. 1 start of fiscal year 2014.

This comes even as the U.S. government has shut down for the first time in 17 years after Congress failed to reach a deal over a healthcare program and federal program funding.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Public Notice - Special Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Advisory Board of Trustees of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation will hold a special meeting on Friday, October 4, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Conference Room #3, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 A. Call to Order
 B. Roll call
 C. Public Comments
II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
IV. MANAGEMENT REPORTS
 A. CEO- CMS Update
V. COMMITTEE REPORTS
VI NEW BUSINESS
 A. Election of Officers
 B. FY 2014 Budget
VII. OLD BUSINESS
VIII. EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION
IX. MISCELLANEOUS
 A. Next Meeting
 B. Adjournment

Robert Tenorio Torres Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. JAMES T. LIZAMA and JINTANA K. LIZAMA, Defendants.

Civil Action No. 11-0077

NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 2nd day of January, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **9th day of October, 2013 at 10 a.m.,** at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 011 G 239, containing an area of 865 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 05 dated December 1, 1993, and recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office on December 16, 1993 as File No. 93-4413.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 c) to reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Marianas Public Land Trust.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 21st day of August, 2013.

/s / Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. ROMAN P. LIZAMA and NAMIE ILEMELONG, Defendants.

Civil Action No. 11-0106

NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 24th day of January, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **9th day of October, 2013 at 10 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 011 G 36, containing an area of 865 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 02, the original of which was recorded on December 16, 1993 as Document No. 93-4410 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CNMI.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 c) to reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Marianas Public Land Trust.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 21st day of August, 2013.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

IN DENYING MARATITA'S REQUEST TO INTERVENE

Judge: Class members, govt, public deserve end to suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U. S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood has denied Rep. Janet Maratita and Jesus Taisague's motion to allow them to intervene in Betty Johnson's class action.

Tydingco-Gatewood said that Maratita and Taisague never addressed the correct legal standard in their papers and reply brief.

"The movants failed to discuss whether circumstances have changed such that the court's reasons for imposing the stay no longer exist or are inappropriate," the judge said in reading her order at the start of Monday's final fairness hearing in Johnson's lawsuit.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she recognizes that granting the stay pending approval of the settlement agreement reduced the burden of litigation for all the parties and streamlined the issues for all involved.

"The court finds a total lack of changed circumstances that would warrant a lifting of the stay previously imposed," she said.

The judge pointed out that the NMI Retirement Fund still remains grossly underfunded and that without the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action, the retirees face a grave risk that they will no longer receive benefits sometime after March 2014, a mere six months from now.

Tydingco-Gatewood said that Maratita and Taisague are free to bring another suit and raise their constitutional claims in a separate complaint.

The judge noted that Johnson's action has been pending in federal court for more than four years, and still more time was spent in the CNMI courts where the Fund obtained a judgment against the CNMI government.

"The settlement class, the CNMI government, and the public deserve an end to this litigation," she said.

Attorney Ramon K. Quichocho, counsel for movants, argued that Maratita and Taisague are fighting for the rule of law and their constitutional rights.

All parties in Johnson's class action opposed the two's motion to lift the stay order and allow them to intervene.

Navy identifies sailor who died after race

AGANA HEIGHTS, Guam—A sailor assigned to U.S. Naval Hospital Guam died suddenly on Sept. 29 after his participation in the second annual Guam Beast Run.

Sanders

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Petty Officer Andrew Sanders, 22, of Elizabeth City, North Carolina, died in the Naval Hospital's emergency room.

Following lifesaving efforts by fellow Corpsman, Sanders was transported to the Naval Hospital where ongoing resuscitative efforts were unsuccessful and he was pronounced dead. The cause of death has not been determined.

Sanders joined the hospital in April this year where he was working alongside the transition officer preparing hospital and staff for the move into the new hospital. His previous duty stations include Field Medical Service School in Camp Lejeune and 2nd Marine Division where he was a Fleet Marine Force Corpsman.

Sanders is survived by his mother and father Sabrina and Joseph Sanders III.

Sanders military awards include Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

Planning for a memorial service and funeral arrangements is ongoing. ***(USN)***

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NMC

Northern Marianas College employees recently participated in a professional development training facilitated by former NMC Accreditation Liaison Officer and current Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero. The focus of the training was to improve the college community's understanding of the distinct roles and responsibilities of the Board of Regents, which is the policy-making body of the institution, and the president, who is responsible for the operation of the college.

Court of Appeals schedules special sitting at the University of Hawaii

SAN FRANCISCO—The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit will hear oral arguments next week at two locations in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The court will sit Oct. 8 and 10 at its regular venue at 1132 Bishop Street. Oral arguments will begin at 9:30am in Courtroom Suite 250L. A photo ID will be required for access into the courtroom. The court will convene a special sitting Oct. 9 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, William S. Richardson School of Law. Oral arguments will begin at 10am in the law schoolís Moot Courtroom, 2515 Dole St. A photo ID will be required for access into courtroom.

A three-judge panel consisting of Chief Judge Alex Kozinski, Senior Circuit Judge Raymond C. Fisher, and Circuit Judge Paul J. Watford, who all maintain chambers in Pasadena, California, will hear appeals of decisions by the U.S. District Courts for the districts of Hawaii and the Northern Mariana Islands. Cases on the docket are:

■ *United States v. Urumelog*, in which Rowena Urumelog of the Northern Mariana Islands appeals her jury conviction and sentence for making a false statement in an immigration document. Case 12-10310

■ *Yamada v. Weaver*, in which plaintiffs Jimmy Yamada et al. appeal a district court ruling pertaining to provisions of Hawaiiís campaign finance disclosure law that are intended to allow the public to determine the financial backers of campaign advertising. The district court upheld some provisions but found that a contribution limit imposed by the law was unconstitutional as applied to the plaintiffsí past and proposed contributions to a registered political action committee. A companion appeal deals with the district courtís order pertaining to attorney fees. Cases 12-15913 and 12-17845

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears appeals of cases decided by executive branch agencies and federal trial courts in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. The court normally meets monthly in Seattle, San Francisco and Pasadena, California; every other month in Portland, Oregon; three times per year in Honolulu, Hawaii; and twice a year in Anchorage, Alaska. A complete schedule of cases is available online at http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov. ***(PR)***

BOE chair has 'high hopes' for PSS this new fiscal year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero has high hopes for a bright year ahead for CNMI public schools as the new fiscal year starts.

Despite the limited appropriation for the nearly 12-month period of running 19 campuses in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, the Public School System will end fiscal year 2013 in "good standing," Guerrero said.

He pointed out that PSS was able to cure a potential deficit of $14,000 by end of September after PSS management assured that the reimbursement from the expenses incurred during the Pacific Education Conference in July will rectify the projected deficit. PEC expenditures totaled $86,000, most of which were initially taken from the system's own pocket.

"The good news is: even though PSS has limited funds, we somehow manage to live within our means," said Guerrero.

PSS had a budget of $31 million for personnel, operations, and utilities in fiscal year 2013.

In fiscal year 2014, PSS has a budget of $33 million, including $177,140 in Compact impact funds. The bulk of the new budget, estimated at $28 million, will pay for employees' salaries and benefits.

On Tuesday last week, acting governor Jude Hofschneider signed into law a bill that will allow PSS to save up to $2 million in utility costs. The new law reclassifies public schools as commercial users and not under the government rate, giving PSS a discounted rate for water and sewer charges. PSS used to pay about $4 million a year for utilities.

Guerrero, during an interview after Friday's board meeting, said the rate relief bill will certainly help the system in its financial performance for the next 12-month period.

He also believes that public schools ended the fiscal year with "much more achievements and successes" in terms of student performance. Among these are the historic wins of CNMI students in national competitions, the conduct of historic events and conferences, the record-breaking growth seen in students' battery test, among other good notes.

He also lauded the commitment and sacrifices of teachers and staff who continue to enrich themselves by obtaining the necessary certification and licensing requirements.

Guerrero said the board will strengthen policies and regulations this new fiscal year, most especially on travels that continue to raise issues in the system's financial audit every year.

He said PSS will start the new fiscal year with the visit of external evaluators from the North Central Association, the accrediting body that will review the school system and the education board as one school district.

The accreditation team is expected to begin their work on Rota and Tinian on Oct. 4 while Saipan schools, PSS central office, and BOE are slated for review on Oct. 7-9.

PSS shifted its accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges last year to NCA. It was provided a six-year accreditation and this week's visit is believed to be some sort of reaffirmation.

DEQ adopts pesticide regulations

The Division of Environmental Quality has adopted the proposed pesticide regulations in the *Commonwealth Register*.

"The reason for the new regulation is to ensure the proper management of pesticide use, sale and that state [local] requirements also meet the federal standards and as well as practices that are applicable to the Islands," said Reina Camacho, manager for the pesticide program.

DEQ reminds the community that the regulations apply to all persons that import, sell or distribute, use, handle and or apply pesticides.

For more information about the changes in requirements and or protocol, contact the pesticide program via email at storagetanksandpesticides@deq.gov.mp You may also visit DEQ personnel at the Gualo Rai Center on Chalan Pale Arnold; office hours are 7:30am until 4:30pm. Tel: 664-8500 and Fax: 664-8540. To review the amendments, visit http://deq.gov.mp/artdoc/Sec7art46ID110.pdf. ***(DEQ Saipan)***

$487K awarded to Pacific territories, FAS, Hawaii

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Institute of Museum and Library Services has awarded seven competitive grants totaling $487,158 for the Pacific territories, Freely Associated States, and Hawaii.

IMLS provides support for Pacific territories, Freely Associated States, and U.S. Virgin Islands through a competitive process administered by Midcontinent Research for Education and Learning. This year's grants were awarded to the following:

■ Feleti Barstow Public Library in Pago Pago, American Samoa

■ Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Saipan, CNMI

■ FSM National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation in Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM

■ Guam Public Library System in Hagatña, Guam

■ Palau Ministry of Education in Koror, Palau

■ Alele Museum, Public Library & National Archives in Majuro, Marshall Islands

A seventh award was made through the IMLS National Leadership Grant program to the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning in Honolulu, Hawaii. The $249,558 grant will support a project-based curriculum that uses the topics of nutrition and cultivation to increase childhood literacy.

"The Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States face unique challenges in terms of connectivity, language, and outreach," said IMLS director Susan Hildreth. "While these projects are designed to address local needs, they also offer models of library service for other island nations." ***(IMLS)***

Ayuyu to keynote EVM's Thursday meeting

Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation is holding a woman's meeting on Thursday, Oct. 5, 2013, to educate and empower women on different issues.

The meeting will take place at the Empty Vessel Ministry office in Guala Rai, on the second floor of the ABA building next to the Monika's store on Middle Road from 9:30am to 12pm. All women are invited to this meeting.

This Thursday meeting's keynote speaker is 2010 Businesswoman of the Year nominee Marcia Ayuyu, who owns the Cutz & Color Salon, as well as Sharmaine P. Casquero of ASKS Fashion & Salon. Both will share beauty tips and advice on proper products for each skin type.

EVM believes in women and that when you help a woman, you are helping her entire family, as women are the ones who care for their families.

In past EVM's meetings, free medical screenings were offered to women through the generosity of EVM supporters and members Dr. Jean Olivia Grant and Dr Eshter Kanajorn.

Abroad, EVM has been able to assist women in starting or expanding their struggling businesses through the offer of micro-loans, a project known as "table banking." Table banking starts with a group of women who meet monthly. These women contribute funds into a collective pot and literally put the money "on the table." The money from this collective pot is "loaned" out with "interest" to those women who want to use the money for their business or business idea. When women pay back the loan with interest, it not only replenishes the funds on the collection pot, but the interest they pay increases the amount of funds available for others to borrow. It is through these monthly meetings that the transaction of loaning and paying back funds take place. To date, 71 women in Kenya have benefited from this program.

Empty Vessel depends on the generosity of individuals, businesses, and organizations contributing financially or through resources to support its programs. EVM also accepts donated goods and financial contribution at its garage sale store, which is similar to Goodwill stores in the U.S. Its garage sale store has benefited struggling families on Saipan through the offer of free items and those who are simply looking for cheaper items.

Contact the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation at 483 0162. ***(PR)***

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce
has an opening for

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a private, non-profit organization. Its purpose is to further the interests of business, as well as to promote quality of life and economic progress, in Saipan.

The ***Executive Director*** reports directly to the Chamber Board of Directors and manages and administers the Chamber Office.

Responsibilities:

- Manage the Chamber office and serve as custodian of Chamber funds
- Organize and attend Board of Directors meetings and Committee meetings and activities
- Plan and coordinate Chamber activities throughout the year
- Coordinate internal and external communications
- Prepare monthly newsletter
- Maintain Chamber websites
- Research pending legislative bills and prepare comments
- Respond to inquiries from members, non-members, residents, tourists, prospective businesses and others
- Promote Chamber membership within the business community

The applicant must have the following minimum qualifications:

- Resident of the CNMI/USA
- BA in Business Administration or equivalent
- Strong work ethic and customer service orientation
- Self-motivating
- Ability to work with a team
- Excellent organization and office skills
- Experience with computer systems/software (spreadsheets, word processing, desktop publishing)

Chamber office hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday; however, this is a salaried position and hours will vary.

Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. Qualified individuals should submit a resume and application to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office, 1st floor, Family Building in Garapan or contact 233-7150 for more information. Deadline for submission is October 02, 2013.

NOW HIRING

The Coral Ocean Point Resort Club is seeking hands-on, energetic, organized, passionate and visionary leaders with a track record of success who knows no boundaries for delivering top quality service, to join our team. Come join our newly renovated 80-room hotel resort, with more future development plans forthcoming.

Leaders who can build an effective team to create the ultimate escape experience for relaxation, enrichment, rejuvenation in a location with stunning tropical surrounding.

The resort is at the critical state in the re-opening process. Were looking for qualified, experienced leaders that can hit the ground running, ready to roll up their sleeves and prepare the resort for a successful re-opening. **PREFERABLY** individuals with experience in setting up respective departments from the ground up.

Golf Course Manager – Responsible for the successful and profitable operation of all aspects of the golf course and its associated facilities. The responsibilities include: turf grass/plant material maintenance programs, property/asset management, personnel management, budget/forecasting, financial management, member relations, scheduling/maintenance or irrigation systems, pesticide applications, related recordings, and compliance of regulatory issues.

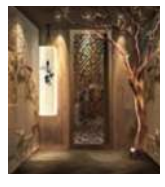
F&B Manager – Oversees the overall administration and operation of the F&B outlets to maximize profits, enforce quality standards, maintenance of a high level of staff performance and ensures customer satisfaction. Plan and implement budgets, forecast sales, hire, train and supervise subordinates and apply relevant marketing principles to ensure satisfaction of guests and customers are consistently exceeded.

Executive Chef – Responsible for all overheads/achieve food cost budget throughout the oncoming year/report all variances from actual budget with the reasons and recommendations for proper action. Plans and directs food preparation in the kitchen, including establishing menu forecasts based on customer counts or business forecasts, previous experience, dates and holidays. Supervises and prepares work schedules for the entire kitchen staffs.

Executive Sous Chef – Under the direction of the Executive Chef, plans and supervises daily overall operation of a kitchen supporting specific venue or area of operation. Schedules, supervises, coordinates, trains and participates in all activities of subordinate cooks and other subordinate kitchen personnel. Responsible for planning, preparing and cooking of foods for all menu items for all occasions including special functions and holidays. Working with Executive Chef, establishes menu forecasts based on customer counts or business forecasts, previous experience, dates and holidays.

Japanese Head Chef – Responsible for the preparation, and wrapping, different types of items on the sushi menu, and must be able to make a variety of other traditional Japanese dishes. May be managing and training others in the kitchen as well as handling their own station.

Front Office Manager – The Front Office is the first and last impression that a guest has of the hotel resort, so it's the Front Office Manager's job to ensure it's a memorable experience worth returning to. The Front Office Manager oversees the overall operation of the Front Desk, the Reservation Control System, the Bellhop Desk, the Poolside and Housekeeping.



Japanese Sales Representative – Serves as one of the hotel/golf resort representative to prospective guests and customers who need to rent rooms, schedule golf tee-time, reserve meeting space, food and beverage service, etc. Must have a degree in hospitality and have at least 3 or more years of work experience in sales. Must have excellent computer skills, and be able to speak, read and understand the Japanese language.

Korean Sales Representative – Serves as one of the hotel/golf resort representative to prospective guests and customers who need to rent rooms, schedule golf tee-time, reserve meeting space, food and beverage service, etc. Must have a degree in hospitality and have at least 3 or more years of work experience in sales. Must have excellent computer skills, and be able to speak, read and understand the Korean language.

Web Designer/IT – Develops Web sites by planning and executing design; maintaining and upgrading service. Analyze company needs to implement Web site content, graphics, performance, and capacity. May integrate Web sites with other computer applications. May convert written, graphic, audio, and video components to compatible Web formats by using software designed to facilitate the creation of Web and multimedia content. Maintains and administers computer networks including computer hardware, systems software, applications software, and all configurations.

REQUIREMENTS: Above positions require a Bachelor's Degree in each respective field and at least 5 or more years of work experience in the related fields. Must be able to work in extreme weather conditions and flexible to work on shifts, weekends, and holidays.

Propagation Worker – Work in nursery facilities or at company location planting, cultivating, harvesting, and transplanting trees, shrubs, or plants. Grafts tropical and other plants; propagates seedlings; mixes and treats planting media; sprays plants for disease and insect control; waters and fertilizes plants; weeds and otherwise maintains a nursery; takes inventory of tools and equipment; may assign and review the work of helpers in preparing soil for planting, trimming, cutting slips, simple re-potting and similar tasks; may drive a light truck to transport plants, may operate light motorized vehicles. Have at least a two-year degree in horticulture, or equivalent and have at least 3 or more years of work experience in this field. Must be able to work in extreme weather conditions and flexible to work on shifts, weekends, and holidays.

Tinian Lions Club conducts medical outreach

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Members of the medical outreach conducted by the Tinian Marianas Lions Club last Sunday pose for a group shot at the Tinian Gymnasium.

The Tinian Marianas Lions Club held its first medical outreach last Sunday with over 230 people availing of free blood pressure, blood sugar, body mass index, and vision checks as well as dental evaluation at the Tinian Gymnasium.

TMLC Guiding Lion and the committee chair Paul Madriaga said the group's first medical mission is definitely not going to be their last.

"Charter president Lizabeth Hofschneider was very pleased with the turnout for the medical mission. We served more people than what we anticipated. Again, my personal appreciation to our fellow Lions from Guam and Saipan who came to give their full support and services. This is Lionism in action," he said.

Madriaga said the Guam Marianas Lions checked the vision of 169 people and gave away reading glasses, courtesy of GMLC and Region 2 Saipan Lions.

"Thank you to GMLC leadership headed by president Art Navarro, Roger Ballon, Roland, and Jun for joining the TMLC mission on Tinian," said Madriaga.

TMLC members also extended their gratitude to the Seventh Day Adventist Dental Clinic for sending their two hygienists from Saipan—Florida Mpayamaguro and Solomon Iyesusab—to join the medical mission.

They also thanked the American Cancer Society Guam for the cancer awareness campaign literature and the NMI Red Cross for the emergency kit supplies and info materials provided at the outreach.

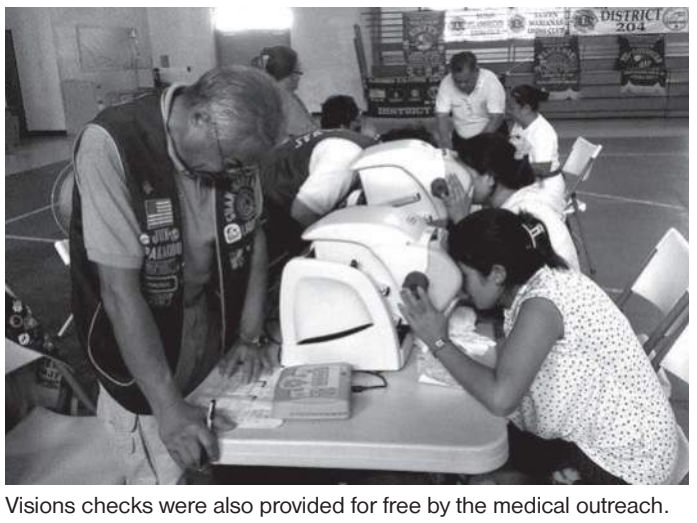
TMLC secretary Rodney Cabarles also recognized the support of the Tinian Health Center volunteer staff, the free flu shots provided by the Division of Public Health headed by its volunteers Hazel Lenteja, Tessa Diaz, and Connie Villagomez, the Tinian Mayor's Office for the providing tables and chairs, Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, Vina Hofschneider and Pete Villagomez; the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs for the venue and their manpower assistance, Augusta Famaw and Alex Reyes and for the water donation of the 14th Tinian Municipal Council led by Lillian Cepeda.

Other Lions Clubs that helped TMLC were Guam Marianas, Saipan Marianas, Saipan Unity, Saipan Fil-American, Guam Latte Stone, Guam Harmony, Guam Galaide, Guamerica, and Guam Spirit Lions Clubs.

TMLC's first medical outreach was sponsored by Bank of Guam, TSL Foundation, Armatech, Brabu Pharmacy, JET Holding, Joeten Enterprises, Sherman Consulting, Tinian Fuel Services Mobil, Traders Insurance, Marianas Energy Technology Inc., Telesource CNMI Inc., JC Café, Susan's Creation, St. Michael's Day Care, and Star Marianas Air. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Over 230 people availed of the free blood pressure, blood sugar, body mass index, and vision checks as well as dental evaluation.

A volunteer checks the blood pressure of one of the people that took advantage of the medical outreach.



Visions checks were also provided for free by the medical outreach.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 2, 2005

Poker bill hurdles House

After months of postponements, the House of Representatives passed on Thursday a bill that allows poker shops only on Beach Road and Middle Road, extending to As Terlaje and As Lito roads. House Bill 14-267 aims to ban poker operations in inner villages such as Koblerville, Dandan, San Vicente, and Kagman, and other villages up north like Tanapag and San Roque. "There would be nothing in the villages. No[thing in] Chalan Kanoa, Koblerville. Nothing inside the villages. It's limited to the main roads," said bill author Rep. Clyde K. Norita. Norita, in an interview yesterday said that, the amendments made to the bill includes changing signages from "poker" to "game room."

Insurance expires, halts Call-A-Ride operations

The Call-A-Ride service, which reached its end of operations with Pacific Development Inc. on Friday, was transferred to the Office on Aging but the vehicle's insurance expired that same day, potentially affecting its operations next week if the insurance is not renewed. Aging Center director Joseph Palacios said the Call-A-Ride service vehicle was turned over to his office Friday and it was late in the afternoon when they discovered that the insurance of the vehicle had expired on the same day. Palacios said the Aging Center took over the service but only for two to three months, just to ensure that regular service to its clients would not be interrupted.

October 2, 2006

Rota, Tinian airports remain in deficit

Due to low traffic and high operations cost, Rota and Tinian airports continue to incur deficits, latest data from the Commonwealth Ports Authority showed. During the first 10 months of fiscal year 2006 ending in July, Rota airport recorded a deficit of $556,671, which is 2 percent lower than prior year's $567,145. Statistics showed that the Rota airport generated only $336,240 in revenues, which is 8 percent higher than the same period last year. But its operating expenses as of July totaled $892,911, a 2-percent increase from last year.

Bellas: Recipients of $5M should immediately cash checks

The 29,700 workers who are expected to receive the checks of over $5 million in the coming days from the lawyers representing the plaintiffs in the class-action against the CNMI garment industry and some retailers, should immediately cash the checks, according to the Garment Oversight Board. GOB chairman Timothy H. Bellas, in an interview with the Saipan Tribune, disclosed that when the workers who are part of the class action lawsuit don't cash the checks upon receiving them, the money would be cancelled after 120 days. Bellas said the uncashed checks will then go back into the GOB fund, which will then be used to pay out to other people.

October 2, 2007

Work at standstill for CUC alien workforce

More than 20 nonresident workers plus six engineers at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. have stopped working since Sunday due to a law that allows CUC only until Sept. 30, 2007, to employ alien workers. CUC spokesperson Pamela Mathis told Saipan Tribune last night that they have been asking the Legislature to extend the legal deadline but no bill has been signed yet extending the sunset provision for CUC. This has forced CUC to halt work for these alien workers since Sunday. Mathis could not provide a specific number of the alien workers affected as of press time.

October fuel rate still at all-time high

It's still bad news for CNMI residents and businesses: The October 2007 electric fuel rate will remain the same as last month's at 22.8 cents per kilowatt-hour. That rate is the highest ever since the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. adopted the new power rates in July 2006. CUC explained that this month's fuel rate represents projected fuel and lube oil bills based on the actual costs and latest data from its fuel supplier, Mobil Oil. Using the October electric fuel rate, residential customers will be assessed 24.4 cents for the first 500 kWh; 29.4 cents for the next 500 kWh; 31.4 cents for the succeeding 1,000 kWh; and 35.5 cents for each kWh consumed in excess of 2,000 kWh.

Island Snapshots

ARC

JOETEN DONATES

American Red Cross representatives receive a $15,000 donation from Joeten Charitable Foundation president Frances Demapan, seated second from right, and Joeten Enterprise representatives on Monday, Sept. 30, which will go toward supporting ARC's 25th annual Club 200 gala. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that relies on the generosity of donors to carry out its mission in the CNMI and around the world.

DAILY RATIONS

American Red Cross members receive a pallet of Humanitarian Daily Rations, Thursday, Sept. 26, at their warehouse on Airport Road. The HDRs, the civilian equivalent to military Meals Ready to Eat or MRE, were donated to ARC and the CNMI Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Defense. Special thanks to the U.S. Coast Guard and the crew of the USCG cutter *Assateague*, Saipan Stevedore, Triple B Forwarders, and Commonwealth Ports Authority for providing transportation and logistics between Guam and Saipan.

ARC

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FAREWELL CEREMONY

Century Tours CEO Willie Tan shares a moment with the Poksai Chamorro dance group during the farewell ceremony of the Miss Cosmos Chinese 2013 pageant on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013, last week at the beach side of the Kanoa Resort.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Belated happy 24th birthday to our workaholic sister, my son's *niña*, my BFF and *komaire*, Kaylynn Keahane Camacho Laniyo! God bless you always, Keke, and may you have many more birthdays to come. We love you very much and we hope you had fun on your holiday. Lots of love coming from your sister Kayla, your godson LJ Boy, and the entire *familia*.

Happy birthday Nina Lulu! Hope it's as awesome as you are and may all your birthday wishes come true! Love always, Bethinie Jodine.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Budget tomfoolery courts real harm

Some day soon—we can only hope—Congress will work seriously on the nation's long-term budget dilemma.

At some point—you'd think—these elected leaders would tire of brinkmanship over whether and how much to extend the nation's borrowing limit so the U.S. can pay its bills and issue Social Security checks.

None of that is happening now, but optimists can imagine that it will one day.

The saddest part about the back-and-forth between the House and Senate, Democrats and Republicans, Republicans of one stripe and Republicans of another stripe, this past week has been that none of it even begins to solve the most serious U.S. budget problems.

The $4 trillion spending plan that expires at midnight Monday itself is narrow in scope, and discussions in both the House and Senate would keep it narrow.

The bill approved by the House on Sept. 20 would authorize spending only through Dec. 15, and the bill passed by the Senate on Friday would cut that back to Nov. 15.

There are significant budget problems even in the short term. The across-the-board automatic spending cuts known as sequestration are a mindless abomination of budgeting.

It is even more inexcusable that it comes as the economy is struggling to grow. This is a time for smart budgeting, not dumb budgeting.

But the real problems are long-term. Annual deficits, and long-term debt growth that can strangle fiscal progress, are projected to rise significantly in coming years as more and more baby boomers draw Social Security and Medicare benefits.

There are legitimate disagreements about what kinds of tax and spending policies would constitute the best approach to unsustainable trends, but continuing to spend so much time and energy narrowly focused on the short term can only lead to disaster.

Finally, Congress has developed a bad habit of toying with real harm to the economy every time the nation approaches the limit on its borrowing capacity.

The deadline becomes a tool for political tomfoolery, destined for use as a bargaining tool for one policy concession or another.

President Obama has said often that an increase in the debt limit only allows the nation to pay bills already authorized by Congress. There's even reason to question whether the Constitution even allows Congress to set such a limit.

But those are superficial arguments. What really needs to happen is that responsible elected officials in Washington should stop fooling around and talk about real solutions to real problems.

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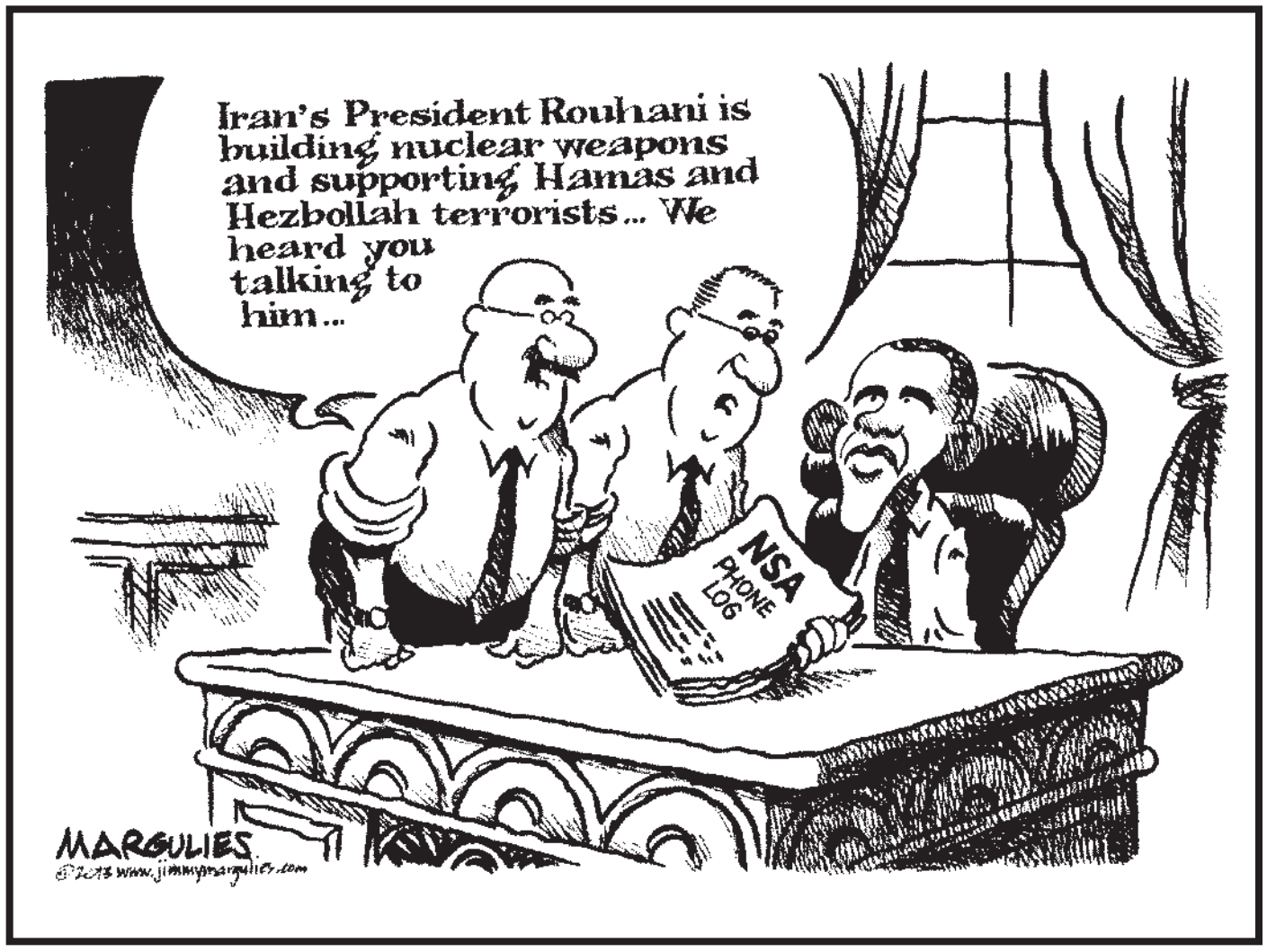
Iran's President Rouhani is building nuclear weapons and supporting Hamas and Hezbollah terrorists... We heard you talking to him...
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Misreading Pope Francis

By CHARLOTTE ALLEN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Pope Francis' highly publicized recent interview with an Italian Jesuit magazine has ushered in a new era for the Roman Catholic Church—an era of record levels of misinterpretation of the pontiff's words, both by the liberal media and by conservative Catholics who have been grousing about Francis ever since he washed the feet of a Muslim girl during Holy Week.

The remark most focused on was this: "We cannot insist only on issues related to abortion, gay marriage and the use of contraceptive methods. ... The teaching of the church … is clear and I am a son of the church, but it is not necessary to talk about these issues all the time."

How were the pope's remarks portrayed? *The New York Times* headline for its story about the interview read: "Pope Says Church Is 'Obsessed' With Gays, Abortion and Birth Control." Not to be outdone, the *New York Daily News* headlined: "Blunt pontiff tells flock to quit yammering about gay marriage, abortion and contraceptives" Here's CNN: "Pope Francis: Leave Gays Alone."

There was also a cavalcade of social media postings. *Daily Beast* columnist Andrew Sullivan, an openly gay Catholic who had sneered at Francis' predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, for calling homosexuality an "intrinsic disorder," tweeted ecstatically: "I am, I must confess, still reeling from Pope Francis' new, lengthy and remarkable interview." Actress Jane Fonda, who isn't a Catholic but who obviously sees Francis as an ally in her perennial battle against Republicans, tweeted: "Gotta love new Pope. He cares about poor, hates dogma. Unlike US Congress. Cutting $40bil from food stamps." Matthew Yglesias, a columnist for *Slate*, confessed in a tweet that he liked "a lot of this new Pope's ideas, but still have serious doubts about the part where Jesus dies for my sins and rises again."

Finally came the commentary. Yglesias' *Slate* colleague William Saletan wrote a 1,600-word column titled "Pope Francis Is a Liberal" and hinting that the pontiff was on the verge of ditching such Catholic doctrinal "mistakes" as papal infallibility and the ban on birth control. NARAL Pro-Choice America, the pro-abortion lobbying organization, posted an orange e-card on its Facebook page reading "Dear Pope Francis, Thank you. Signed, Pro-choice women everywhere." House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, who has been denounced by her fellow Catholics for supporting abortion rights, declared that Francis was "starting to sound like a nun"—a reference to American sisters who were censured by the Vatican for publicly challenging church doctrine and promoting "radical feminist themes incompatible with the Catholic faith."

Ironically, many conservative Catholics, who disagree with liberals on practically everything else, actually agree with their archenemies that Francis is poised to radically alter the Catholic Church. A tweet from the group blog Rorate Caeli—so arch-traditionalist that its banner consists of a photo of the last pre-Second Vatican Council pope, Pius XII, who died in 1958—asserted that Francis may be "the Successor of St. Peter" but "he's not the owner of the Church or her doctrine." On Fr. Z's Blog, an Internet refuge for Catholics fed up with having to sing folk songs at Mass instead of Gregorian chants, a commenter wrote: "It's insulting to be told we Catholics who are fighting against the great evils of the day are spending too much time on such things (you know, those mortal sin things) and apparently are mean curmudgeons who aren't nice enough to people."

In fact, Francis, as he made clear in his interview, isn't likely to deviate from any aspect of traditional Catholic teaching. He reiterated that God doesn't "condemn and reject" anyone, including gays, but loves them, is cognizant of the pain they feel and yearns for them to repent of their sins and confess them. The very day after the interview was published, Francis, in an audience with Catholic gynecologists, vociferously denounced abortion as a symptom of today's "throwaway culture."

But that is in some ways beside the point. The Catholic Church really is changing, although not exactly in the fashion liberals would like. The church is changing because the world itself is changing. The hegemony of the West, technologically advanced but in demographic, economic, cultural and religious decline, may well be over. The previous pope, Benedict XVI, was born and raised in Germany, and his high aesthetic and intellectual ethos may have represented the last gasp of that rich and self-confident Western European civilization, rooted in Christianity, that gave us Michelangelo, Shakespeare and Mozart.

Christianity is moribund in the European West. It is, however, robustly alive in the East and in the global South, as religion scholar Philip Jenkins noted in his 2002 book, "The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity." And it is the Southern Hemisphere—Argentina—from which Francis has sprung.

Francis is the first pope of the Next Christendom. At the moment, it's not exactly a prosperous Christendom. It is, however, a Christendom that can turn out 3 million people to sleep in their cheap jeans and sweatshirts as they wait for Francis to say Mass on Copacabana beach. These are people for whom gay marriage is a First World problem, and for whom abortion is a desperate measure born of shredded family life and crushing poverty, rather than a "my body, my choice" political cause.

Francis was speaking to those people and for those people in his interview when he said that the church had to be more like a "field hospital after battle." He was reminding us that nobody is worthless, and that even in these degraded times, Christianity offers hope for all—and, most important, forgiveness.

Charlotte Allen writes frequently about politics and religion. She is the author of The Human Christ: The Search for the Historical Jesus. *She wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Pondering military buildup

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

With earnest sense, we ponder the military buildup at home, specifically how much more land would it need for defense expansion. The unseen issue is wrapped in diplomatic visits by our top-gun diplomats to Asia working to reinforce a fragile and undefined partnership with allies in the region.

Allied countries include Australia, India, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Singapore. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel recently met with defense ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations purportedly to strengthen relationship with our Asian security partners.

But there's the assumption that aid in the form of funds and military weaponry has sealed a deal where ASEAN countries would intervene as allies of the U.S. in the maintenance of Asian peace and stability. While trips to meet heads of allied nations are welcome in the region, each U.S. visitor returns home with an empty bag, failing to secure the anchor or agreement of peace and security to intervene militarily when needed.

While it seems our country is peddling "soft power" in the region, "by geopolitical measure, the policy is indeed succeeding in creating the impression of U.S.-Chinese great-power competition in Southeast Asia. The problem is that the geopolitical game could simply be a figment of Washington's imagination. Standard analysis would classify Southeast Asia states and ASEAN as either acting to balance a rising China or 'bandwagoning' with it." But many are doing neither, according to Walter Lohman, director of Asian Studies, Heritage Foundation.

Said Lohman: "In the soft-power scenario, the Obama administration is trying to do things and do them in ways that will please the ASEAN countries, without any specific payoff for American interests beyond garnering goodwill. Influence and popularity, however, are different things. Influence results in getting another party to do something they might not want to do. If the administration cannot identify exactly what it wants in the bargain, it is not exercising influence.

"Under either scenario, it is ASEAN that occupies the driver's seat. In the China-balancing scenario, ASEAN members receive the benefits of U.S. engagement, arms sales, joint exercises, etc., and turn them to their own strategic purposes. This is what the oft-repeated Southeast Asian protest of not wanting to 'choose' sides is all about. Of course, ASEAN members do not want to provoke the ire of the Chinese when they have the option of benefiting, undisturbed, from both sides.

"In the Philippines, the United States is making an 'ask' on defense cooperation that stretches Manila enough that there is serious negotiation. This applies to some extent to Singapore as well, which stepped in to provide access for the U.S. Navy in the 1990s and is doing so again. It is time for Washington to make 'asks' of its other friends, partners and allies in the region as well. The more comfortable ASEAN is with the United States, the more it is meeting its own strategic objective of engaging all comers and making the most of their contributions. If the United States pushes for deeper defense cooperation, ASEAN will be less comfortable. In short, while ASEAN may have an interest in not choosing, American interests require that sometimes it must ask it to.

"ASEAN is at a delicate moment in its history. It is proving utterly incapable of handling the challenge China presents in the South China Sea. Twenty years of engagement with China on the issue have failed. It is at moments like these, when its members' interest diverge, that it is most open to influence. This is exactly why the countries with the greatest stake in ASEAN—Indonesia, for example—are keen to paper over intra-ASEAN disputes. The Philippines's interest in dealing with China is as close to home as its Western shoreline; Indonesia's is in preserving amity in the organization that legitimizes its power.

"The principal U.S. interest in Southeast Asia today lies in 'countering,' and ultimately 'moderating,' aggressive Chinese claims and behavior that threaten regional peace, security, and prosperity. Allowing American strategic aims to be subsumed by ASEAN's cannot do this. To the extent that some ASEAN members share U.S. concerns about China, they temper their concerns with intra-ASEAN priorities that are not American priorities. For this reason, beyond serving as a valuable networking venue, institutions like the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting-Plus and the ASEAN Regional Forum will not meet American strategic objectives."

With this analysis, it seems imperative that our top gun diplomats ensure (when they next make trips to Southeast Asia) that they understand the difference in the substance of the terms "agreement" and "acceptance." Asian leaders are critically sensitive to the use of language and a discussion on a deal, though wrapped in a firm handshake at day's end, still doesn't guarantee that perceptual agreement means an acceptance. The bottom line is simple: a commitment from our allies may mean dismantling any further use of the entire Marianas chain for military purposes. Everybody would walk away happy campers.

■ ■ ■

The national budget is $17 trillion in the red. It means that our country has avoided fixing entitlement programs that are long due for major reform. Obama's mission is perceptual "equality" where he's out to destroy the very essence of constitutionalism.

It's the foundation that made our country the most powerful and prosperous. But we can't continue spending beyond what we have in the national coffers. The runaway spending beyond the national means would eventually translate into far less for everybody, including funds for national defense.

We may be far from it—total bankruptcy—but that is where we're headed. It would simply emasculate economic growth where even tiny possessions like the CNMI would suffer heavily given its grandly listless economy. Trailing behind Detroit?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Sacrificium intellectus'

Intellectuals, including a self-ordained intellectual or scholar of Mr. Ambrose Bennett's persona, share a common logical groundwork as a vehicle for advocating and advancing their beliefs and intellectual undertakings. To a layperson like many of us in the CNMI, a rational assessment of argument is of little significance because this high level of thought processes are only reserved for intellectuals like Mr. Ambrose Bennett. And it seems that Mr. Bennett posits that his being an intellectual and scholar of many diverse disciplines, challenging his thoughts or beliefs is a carnal sin. The unfortunate, less educated people of the CNMI know no better than him. So belief in what Mr. Bennett says is "sacrificium intellectus."

G.K. Chesterson once said, "But a man is not really convinced of a philosophic theory when he finds that something proves it. He is really convinced when he finds that everything proves it." Is Mr. Bennett saying that no one is a better thinker than he is, or is he saying that those intellectuals whose original thinking withstood the test of reason and mastery of intellectual endeavors are irrelevant and insignificant authorities because godsend Ambrose Bennett has superior intellectual capacity and maturity over subjects he believes to be true?

John Locke wrote extensively about natural laws and natural rights. Very simply, minimum wage is a right under natural laws, and each person willing, able, and ready to work would demand his natural right to earn a wage according to a price or wage as determined or set by him. The laborer could ask as a matter of natural right a demand for $1 per hour or any amount he wishes as a fair deal, or no wage at all as a slave against his natural right to a wage representing the earned value for his labor. But this alone is not sufficient because the laborer has to sell his labor to someone who would be willing to pay for it. Therefore, for as long as no one is willing to pay the minimum wage under natural laws, the labor is free and mean nothing to anyone except solely to the laborer who priced his labor that no one is willing to pay for. For instance, if Ambrose Bennett thinks that all the fishes in the ocean are free and available to all for as long as anyone catches the fish drifting freely in the open ocean, then that alone is an exercise of one's natural right to all the fishes in the open ocean. Let us further stipulate that Ambrose Bennett is willing and able to take the risk of fishing out some fishes in the open ocean. He would have to have all the fixes for fishing such as a line, swivel, hook, sinker, bait, and other essentials for his fishing endeavor. Under this scenario, for as long as the fishes elude Ambrose Bennett, his value to the fish does not exist and his labor is only good to himself. But when he catches a fish, the whole situation is determined. Now he could declare that he owns the fish under natural laws. He is free to put a price and value on his catch. If he consumes the fish, Ambrose Bennett could say that he enjoyed a $10,000 fish under natural law, but then his fish is still free unless someone pays for it other than Ambrose Bennett. This is what John Locke is saying. But what I am saying at this level of the discourse is that one could dispel any subject matter in Ambrose Bennett's intellectual discourse when his argument does not follow some logical or sane processes.

Francisco Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

My apology

After my participating in the settlement hearing on Monday, I finally understood what this hearing was all about. Because of what I wrote in a recent letter to the editor, I find the need to apologize to both Betty Johnson's attorneys and Joseph Razzano for I did not understood what the hearing was all about.

Several months back, when I first went to Saipan to ask Mr. Razzano to ask him to let us participate in the hearing, we never got an answer until yesterday. For that I am very grateful to Judge Francis Tydingco Gatewood for making it possible for the Tinian and Rota DB members to participate.

Because of what I read in the news, I unintentionally made those accusations that I wrote in my letter to the editor. For that I apologize to Mr. Joseph Razzano and to Betty Johnson's attorneys. I didn't understand that it was our government's mistake. They were the ones who only God knows were lying or maybe really trying their best but don't know how to do their work. I also would like to apologize to Judge Gatewood and the government official who were actually telling the truth at the town hall meeting.

Betty Johnson was standing up for all the retirees to protect their benefits that is about to be diminished by our government. Joseph Razzano and Betty Johnson's attorneys are actually following the laws and at the same time are educating everyone regarding the seriousness of these laws. For that, I would like to thank her and the trustee *ad litem* for all their hard work, patience, and understanding for us DB members.

After hearing what the attorney advised us active members on Public Law 17-82, as the active core representative for Tinian and Rota I will follow up on this matter. The Fund's legal counsel was right, the law is the law.

So, to justice here we come. Lawmakers and Gov. Inos, prepare for us what you owe us. Because of PL 17-82, we the active members are asking you to start preparing the interest in accordance with PL 17-82, before someone else comes back with another lawsuit. Since you made the law and you indicated the deadline, this is just a reminder that you are past due.

In closing, once again, for offending you all with unintentional accusations, I would like to extend my sincere apology to the trustee *ad litem*, Judge Gatewood, Betty Johnson and her attorneys, and all government officials. Thank you everyone and God bless.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

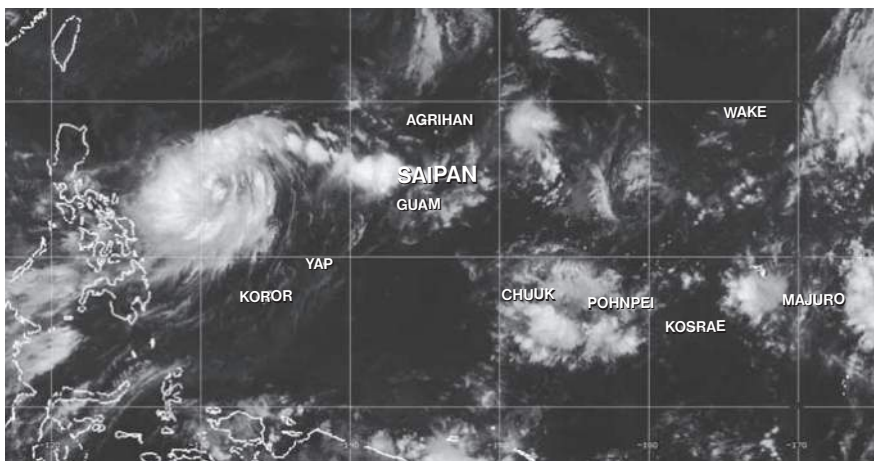
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼74
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼54
Beijing	Sunny	▲73	▼48
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Honolulu	Showers	▲86	▼74
London	Showers	▲63	▼59
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲79	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼76
Melbourne	Showers	▲62	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
New York	Sunny	▲80	▼60
Osaka	Sunny	▲84	▼68
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲71	▼56
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼60
Rome	Sunny	▲77	▼58
Salem	Showers	▲60	▼46
San Francisco	Sunny	▲66	▼55
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼52
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼70
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼64

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Fitow (22W) is centered 550 miles north-northwest of Koror moving northwest at 6 mph with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 260 miles of the center. For more information on Tropical Depression 22W, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN33 PGTW and by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ33 PGUM. A monsoon trough stretches eastward from Tropical Storm Fitow through a weak circulation centered east of the Marianas near 17N151E to 17N157E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring west of the Marianas within 70 miles of a line from 18N134E to 15N145E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found east of the Marianas within 70 miles of a line from 19N151E to 13N154E. A surface trough runs northeastward from 5N156E through a circulation centered northwest of Kosrae near 7N162E to 11N170E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located mainly south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between 8N and 2N from 150E to 160E. Similar weather is found southwest of Kwajalein between 9N and 6N from 164E to 168E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of the Marshall Islands between 11N and 3N from 173E to 179E. Another surface trough curves northeastward from 17N165E through a circulation centered east of Wake Island at 19N171E to beyond 25N at 175E. In addition, an upper-level low stretches northeastward from 16N165E to beyond 25N at 170E. These features are combining to produce extensive cloudiness, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Wake Island within 190 miles of a line from 16N171E to 25N178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:47 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
6:17 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
12:50 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
7:08 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:06 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:26 AM	4:01 PM
Thursday	4:16 AM	4:42 PM
Friday	5:07 AM	5:24 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:07 PM
Sunday	6:55 AM	6:54 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 2, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5074/PR111	11:20am	4:45pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:10am	10:45am	6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	7:55am	1:30am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Homework involved to apply for health insurance

WASHINGTON (AP)—Getting covered under President Barack Obama's health care law might take you more than one sitting. In a media preview Monday, it felt like a cross between doing your taxes and making an important purchase that requires research.

"Nothing like this has ever existed before," said Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

You'll need accurate income information for your household, plus some understanding of how health insurance works, so you can get the financial assistance you qualify for and pick a health plan that's right for your needs.

The process involves federal agencies electronically verifying your identity, citizenship and income, and you have to sign that you are providing truthful information, subject to perjury laws.

You heard it was going to be like buying airline tickets online? Not quite. But even if it triggers some anxiety, it's not the government poking into your medical records, as "Obamacare" foes have suggested.

After state health insurance markets open Tuesday, people who don't have health care on the job can apply online, via a call center, in person or by mail. Trained helpers are supposed to be available, but there may not be enough of them in every state. Foreign language interpreters are available through the call centers.

The main steps are:

■ Identify yourself and your family members.

■ Provide current information on income, jobs and any available health insurance options.

■ Learn how much financial assistance you're entitled to.

■ Shop for a health plan and enroll.

Many people will qualify for tax credits to help buy a private insurance plan. The government will send money directly to your insurer, and you'll make arrangements to pay any remaining premium.

The poor and near-poor will be steered to Medicaid in states that agree to expand that program.

Here's an overview of what to expect applying online, with tips:

Go to healthcare.gov and click on "Get Insurance." The site has links to every state market. You'll set up an account and password. You'll provide your contact information and the best way to reach you.

Tip—Treat your password like a bank account or credit card password.

Now you can tackle the actual application. You'll need birth dates and Social Security numbers for yourself and other family members listed on your federal tax return.

You'll also be asked if you're a citizen. Legal immigrants will need their immigration documents.

Tip—You don't have to plow through the entire application at once. You can save your work and come back later.

Next, you'll be asked about income.

You may need your most recent tax return, pay stubs and details on other kinds of income, such as alimony, pensions and rents. You can still apply if you haven't filed a tax return. You'll also be asked about access to health insurance through your job. You may be required to take that insurance if available.

Your personal and income details will be routed through a new government entity called the data services hub, which will ping agencies like Social Security, Homeland Security and the Internal Revenue Service for verification. The feds will also rely on a major private credit reporting company to verify income and employment.

How smoothly all this works is one of the big unknowns. It could get tedious if discrepancies take time to resolve.

Tip—Provide the most accurate estimate of your expected income for 2014. Lowball the number, and you might see a smaller tax refund in 2015. Overestimate and you won't get as big a tax credit now.

Most people applying will qualify for a tax credit to help pay premiums. The credits are based on your income and keyed to the premium for a benchmark plan known as the "second-lowest cost silver plan" in your area.

With your tax credit, you can finally shop for insurance. Be aware that you'll probably have to live with your decision until the next annual enrollment period.

You'll have up to four levels of coverage to consider: bronze, silver, gold and platinum. Plans at every "metal level" cover the same benefits and have a cap of $6,350 a year in out-of-pocket expenses for an individual, $12,700 for families.

Bronze plans generally have the lowest premiums, but cover only 60 percent of medical costs on average. Policyholders will pay the difference, up to the annual out of pocket cap. Platinum plans have the highest premiums, but cover 90 percent of costs. Young adults up to age 30 can pick a skinny "catastrophic" plan—but you can't use your tax credit on a catastrophic plan.

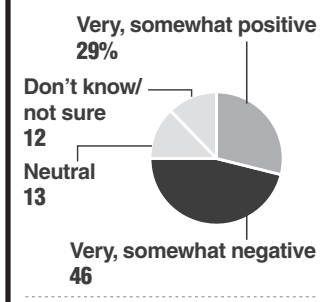
AP

Justine Covington receives a flu shot Jeffrey Daniel, a nurse at Fourth Street Clinic Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2013, in Salt Lake City.

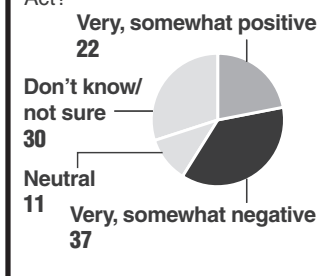
It depends on what you call it

Obamacare is the nickname for the Affordable Care Act passed into law in 2010. More Americans have negative feelings about the nickname than they do about the law.

• What are your feelings toward Obamacare?



• What are your feelings toward the Affordable Care Act?



Source: CNBC poll of 812 adults, Sept. 16-19, 2013; margin of error: +/-3.4 percentage points
Graphic: Judy Treible

© 2013 MCT

Airlines promise a return to civility—for a fee

NEW YORK (AP)—Airlines are introducing a new bevy of fees, but this time passengers might actually like them.

Unlike the first generation of charges which dinged fliers for once-free services like checking a bag, these new fees promise a taste of the good life, or at least a more civil flight.

Extra legroom, early boarding and access to quiet lounges were just the beginning. Airlines are now renting Apple iPads preloaded with movies, selling hot first class meals in coach and letting passengers pay to have an empty seat next to them. Once on the ground, they can skip baggage claim, having their luggage delivered directly to their home or office.

In the near future, airlines plan to go one step further, using massive amounts of personal data to customize new offers for each flier.

"We've moved from takeaways to enhancements," says John F. Thomas of L.E.K. Consulting. "It's all about personalizing the travel experience."

Carriers have struggled to raise airfares enough to cover costs. Fees bring in more than $15 billion a year and are the reason the airlines are profitable. But the amount of money coming in from older charges like baggage and reservation change fees has tapered off. Revenue from bag fees in April, May and June fell 7 percent compared to the same period last year, according to figures released by the government Monday.

So now the airlines are selling new extras and copying marketing methods honed by retailers.

Technological upgrades allow airlines to sell products directly to passengers at booking, in follow-up emails as trips approach, at check-in and on mobile phones minutes before boarding. Delta Air Lines recently gave its flight attendants wireless devices, allowing them to sell passengers last-second upgrades to seats with more legroom.

And just like Amazon.com offers suggested readings based on each buyer's past purchases, airlines soon will be able to use past behavior to target fliers.

"We have massive amounts of data," says Delta CEO Richard Anderson. "We know who you are. We know what your history has been on the airline. We can customize our offerings."

Other airlines are experimenting with tracking passengers throughout the airport. In the future, if somebody clears security hours before their flight, they might be offered a discounted day pass to the airline's lounge on their phone.

Airlines have yet to find the right balance between being helpful and being creepy. So, for now, most of the data is being used to win back passengers after their flight is delayed or luggage is lost.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
15,129.67	1,681.55	3,771.48
-128.57	-10.20	-10.12
-0.84%	-0.60%	-0.27%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0647	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7561	Philippine Peso	43.3143
British Pound	0.6163	Indian Rupee	62.3967	Singapore Dollar	1.2532
Canadian Dollar	1.0315	Indonesian Rupiah	11576	South Korean Won	1073.9
Chinese Yuan	6.1227	Japanese Yen	98.1548	Swiss Franc	0.903
Euro	0.7384	Malaysian Ringgit	3.2392	Taiwan Dollar	29.543
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2042	Thailand Baht	31.2081

Nation

Americans anxious, irritated as govt shuts down

NEW YORK (AP)—From New York's Liberty Island to Alaska's Denali National Park, the U.S. government closed its doors as a bitter budget fight idled hundreds of thousands of federal workers and halted all but the most critical government services for the first time in nearly two decades.

A midnight deadline to avert a shutdown passed amid Congressional bickering, casting in doubt Americans' ability to get government services ranging from federally-backed home loans to supplemental food assistance for children and pregnant women.

For many employees of the federal government, Tuesday's shutdown meant no more paychecks as they were forced onto unpaid furloughs. For those still working, it meant delays in getting paid.

Park Ranger and father-to-be Darquez Smith said he already lives paycheck-to-paycheck while putting himself through college.

"I've got a lot on my plate right now—tuition, my daughter, bills," said Smith, 23, a ranger at Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park in Ohio. "I'm just confused and waiting just like everyone else."

The impact of the shutdown was mixed—immediate and far-reaching for some, annoying but minimal for others.

In Colorado, where flooding killed eight people earlier this month, emergency funds to help rebuild homes and businesses continued to flow—but federal worker furloughs were expected to slow it down.

National Guard soldiers rebuilding washed-out roads would apparently be paid on time—along with the rest of the country's active-duty personnel—under a bill passed hours before the shutdown. Existing Social Security and Medicare benefits, veterans' services and mail delivery were also unaffected.

Other agencies were harder hit—nearly 3,000 Federal Aviation Administration safety inspectors were furloughed along with most of the National Transportation Safety Board's employees, including accident investigators who respond to air crashes, train collisions, pipeline explosions and other accidents.

Almost all of NASA shut down, except for Mission Control in Houston, and national parks closed along with the Smithsonian museums and the National Zoo. Even the zoo's popular panda cam went dark, shut off for the first time since a cub was born there Aug. 23.

As the shutdown loomed Monday, visitors to popular parks made their frustration with elected officials clear.

"There is no good thing going to come out of it," said Chris Fahl, a tourist from Roanoke, Ind., visiting the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Park in Hodgenville, Ky. "Taxpayers are just going to be more overburdened."

Emily Enfinger, visiting the Statue of Liberty, said politicians need to find a way to work together.

"They should be willing to compromise, both sides, and it discourages me that they don't seem to be able to do that," she said. "They're not doing their job as far as I'm concerned."

Joe Wentz, a retired federal employee from Lebanon, Va., visiting San Francisco with his wife, bought tickets to visit Alcatraz on Thursday—if it's open.

Wentz said he's frustrated that some politicians are using the budget to push changes in the Affordable Care Act.

"We've been disgusted a long time that they're not working together," he said.

The shutdown was strangely captivating to Marlena Knight, an Australian native visiting Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia. She was confounded that the impasse focused on the nation's health care system—an indispensable service in her home country.

"We can't imagine not having a national health system," she said. "I just can't believe that this country can shut down over something like a national health system. Totally bizarre, as an Australian, but fascinating."

Dozens injured in Chicago-area train collision

Authorities inspect the wreckage of t wo Chicago Transit Authority trains that crashed Monday, Sept. 30, 2013, in Forest Park, Ill. AP

FOREST PARK, Ill. (AP)—Officials said nobody was at the controls of an empty commuter train that slammed into another train at a suburban Chicago station Monday, injuring dozens of commuters, but they don't know how the train got moving.

Video footage shows that nobody was driving the 4-car Chicago Transit Authority train as it rumbled the wrong way toward the train parked at the Harlem Avenue station about 10 miles west of Chicago. But investigators were trying to determine if it somehow started moving itself or if someone sent it on its way, intentionally or otherwise.

"If it wasn't a goof or there is someone not telling us something that creates a big problem because if one train can start moving without anybody doing anything than it can happen to another train," said Amalgamated Transit Union President Robert Kelly.

Kelly said he had never heard of a train simply starting to roll down the tracks. Not only that, but he said to start a train somebody would not only have to have a special key, but would have to know how to use it.

As many as four dozen people who were on the parked train were treated for minor injuries and released from hospitals, authorities said.

CTA spokesman Brian Steele said investigators are examing the video, the signaling systems and other data to determine what happened. He, too, said he had never heard of such an incident before. CTA spokeswoman Lambrini Lukidis said the video is being turned over to the National Transportation Safety Board, which took over the lead of the investigation.

What could make solving the mystery even tougher is that the train started its journey beyond the last station on the west end of the Blue Line that runs from the western suburbs, into the city and out to O'Hare International Airport.

Kelly said the train was parked perhaps a quarter mile beyond the Forest Park station, in a spot where it could not be seen by any commuters or anyone else, including CTA workers, inside the station. He said that it wasn't until a CTA worker spotted the empty train roll through the station that there was any indication that anything was wrong.

That CTA supervisor frantically tried to contact the moving train. A few minutes later, the motorman of a westbound train that had just pulled into the Harlem Avenue station spotted the train coming at his.

"He pops the door open and walks on the platform to see where the train is going and tries to call it," said Kelly. When he got no response, said Kelly, the motorman shouted at the riders in the first car to "brace yourself" for a crash.

Passengers on other cars did not even have time to do that.

"We were stopped at Harlem and then we hear like a big boom sound and everyone started flying out of their seats," said passenger Lyneisha Fields. The 18-year-old said she was taken to a local hospital's emergency room because she hit the back of her head on a metal bar in the train.

The crash left a section of one train crushed, and resembled an accordion.

Firefighters from as many as a dozen local fire departments responded, Calderone said. Calls seeking comment from the Forest Park fire department weren't immediately returned.

Shutdown: Who's at fault?

Public opinion puts the blame on Republicans, though less dramatically than in 1995, at the time of the last government shutdown.

• Who would you blame more if there is a partial shutdown of the federal government?

SEPT. 2013

Republicans in Congress 44%

Barack Obama and Democrats in Congress 35

Both equally 16

Don't know: 5%

NOV. 1995

Republicans 51

Bill Clinton 28

Both equally 15

Don't know: 6%

• Is it acceptable for a president or members of Congress to threaten a government shutdown during budget negotiations in order to achieve their goals?

Not acceptable 80

Acceptable 16

Don't know: 4%

Source: CBS News/New York Times poll of 1,014 adults, Sept. 19-23, 2013; margin of error: +/- 3 percentage points; Congressional Quarterly
Graphic: Judy Treible © 2013 MCT

Life for NJ chemist who's convicted of poisoning husband

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (AP)—A Chinese-born chemist who worked for a decade for one of America's biggest pharmaceutical companies was a cold, calculating murderer who poisoned her husband rather than let him divorce her, a judge said Monday as he sentenced her to life in prison.

Tianle Li won't be eligible for parole for more than 62 years for the killing of Xiaoye Wang, a computer software engineer, in early 2011, the judge said.

"This was planned, calculated and committed in a cruel and depraved manner," state Superior Court Judge Michael Toto said.

The 43-year-old Li was convicted in July of murder and hindering apprehension. Her attorney had sought a 30-year sentence.

Li continues to deny any role in her husband's death, said her attorney, Steven Altman. In a brief, tear-filled statement read in court Monday, Li said she prays for her husband's soul and will appeal the verdict. The couple has a son who is 4 and in the care of relatives.

Li worked for New York City-based biopharmaceutical company Bristol-Myers Squibb. Prosecutors introduced evidence during the trial that she ordered thallium, a tasteless, odorless poison, through work in 2010 after researching its effects on humans.

Thallium has been banned for consumer use in the U.S. since 1972. It can be fatal in doses as small as a gram and has been called the perfect poison because it's difficult to detect in lab tests. It was initially suspected to be the toxin used in the 2006 fatal poisoning in London of former Russian KGB agent Alexander Litvinenko, but it was later determined he had ingested the rare radioactive isotope polonium-210.

Asia

Once infertile, woman gives birth after surgery

NEW YORK (AP)—A 30-year-old infertile woman gave birth after surgeons removed her ovaries and re-implanted tissue they treated in a lab, researchers report.

The experimental technique was only tried in a small group of Japanese women with a specific kind of infertility problem, but scientists hope it can also help women in their early 40s who have trouble getting pregnant because of their age.

The new mother gave birth to a son in Tokyo last December, and she and the child continue to be healthy, said Dr. Kazuhiro Kawamura of the St. Marianna University School of Medicine in Kawasaki, Japan. He and others describe the technique in a report published online Monday by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The mother, who was not identified, had been diagnosed with primary ovarian insufficiency, an uncommon form of infertility sometimes called premature menopause. It appears in about 1 percent of women of childbearing age. The cause of most cases is unknown, but the outcome is that the ovary has trouble producing eggs.

That leaves women with only a 5 percent to 10 percent chance of having a baby unless they get treated. The standard treatment is using donor eggs.

After the experimental procedure, Kawamura and colleagues were able to recover eggs from five of their 27 patients. One woman went on to have a miscarriage, one did not get pregnant, and two more have not yet attempted pregnancy, Kawamura said in an email.

The approach differs from what has been done to preserve fertility in some cancer patients, who had normal ovarian tissue removed and stored while they underwent cancer treatments, and then put back. The new work involved ovaries that were failing to function normally.

AP

In this Dec. 28, 2012 photo provided by Dr. Kazuhiro Kawamura of the St. Marianna University School of Medicine in Kawasaki, Japan, Kawamura holds a newborn baby whose 30-year-old mother was treated for primary ovarian insufficiency, sometimes called premature menopause, in Tokyo.

In the ovary, eggs mature in structures called follicles. For women with the condition the new study targeted, the follicles are either missing or failing to produce eggs. The experimental treatment was designed to stimulate dormant follicles.

First, the women's ovaries were removed and cut into strips, which were frozen. Later the strips were thawed and cut into tiny cubes, a step intended to stimulate maturation of the follicles. Then the cubes were treated with drugs to stimulate further development of the follicles. Cubes were then transplanted just under the surface of the women's fallopian tubes.

Within six months, eight women showed signs of follicle maturation, and five of them produced eggs for fertilization in the lab with their husbands' sperm. The fertilized eggs were grown into early embryos, which were frozen for preservation. In the three attempts at pregnancy, one or two embryos were implanted in the women.

The researchers found that half the 27 patients had no follicles at all, which meant the treatment could not help them, said Aaron Hsueh of Stanford University, senior author of the study. He also said researchers hope to find a way to stimulate follicles without removing the ovaries.

Dr. Sherman Silber of the Infertility Center of St. Louis criticized the approach, saying he has had success by using drugs rather than surgery to treat the condition. He also disagreed with the researchers' explanation for why their treatment worked.

Some other experts said treatment with drugs often does not work.

The new results, experts cautioned, must be viewed as preliminary.

SKorea leader raps Japan during Hagel meeting

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president on Monday criticized Japan over historical and territorial disputes during a meeting with visiting U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel.

Seoul and Tokyo have long bickered over the ownership of tiny islets, a Japanese war shrine and other issues stemming from Japan's colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula from 1910-1945. Their ties have further soured due to recent nationalistic events and remarks in Japan.

On Monday, President Park Geun-hye brought up the issue of South Koreans' resentment when Hagel visited her during a four-day trip and expressed hopes for improved ties between Seoul and Japan.

"I know Japan is an important country to cooperate with for peace and stability in Northeast Asia ... but the trust has not been established due to the (Japanese) leadership which has repeatedly made regressive remarks" on history and territorial issues, Park said, according to a statement from her office.

Park said many South Koreans are still suffering from the Japanese occupation, such as elderly Korean women who served as wartime sex slaves for Japanese troops during the World War II.

"They've lived with deep (mental) scars but Japan has leveled insults against them rather than offering an apology," Park said. She said Tokyo must show a sincere attitude to address the issue.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Disused building collapses in China, burying 16

BEIJING (AP)—A disused factory building collapsed in northern China early Monday, burying 16 construction workers who were sleeping inside, an official said. Rescuers were trying to reach those inside the collapsed building in a rural area of Wuan city in Hebei province. A Wuan propaganda department official confirmed a state media report that the 16 were construction workers for an iron mine and had been staying in the building near the village of Houshan for the night. The official refused to give his name, as is common with Chinese officials. An investigation into the cause of the collapse was under way.

Tropical storm Wutip lashes Vietnam's coast

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Tropical storm Wutip lashed central Vietnam on Monday after sinking at least two Chinese fishing boats near the Paracel Islands, leaving 75 fishermen missing, officials said. The storm uprooted trees, cut power lines and damaged more than 1,000 houses. There was no immediate word of injuries, flooding or major structural damage. Vietnam's national weather center said Wutip had weakened from a typhoon to a tropical storm by the time it made landfall. It was packing sustained winds of 117 kilometers (73 miles) per hour, it said. Officials evacuated tens of thousands of people from the storm's path over the previous day.

Australia's new PM makes maiden trip to Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said he had frank and constructive discussions on immigration issues with his Indonesian counterpart on Monday during his first trip abroad since taking office, a visit that comes as the death toll continues to climb from the latest boat tragedy involving Australia-bound asylum seekers. "We are resolved together, united, to tackle this problem and to beat it, on land and at sea and at the borders of our countries," Abbott said after meeting President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. "We are determined to end this scourge, which is not just an affront to our two countries, but which has so often become a humanitarian disaster in the seas between our two countries."

Flooding in Cambodia claims at least 30 lives

AP

A Cambodian woman pushes a church gate with an oar to steer her wooden boat in a flooded area along the Mekong river in Koh Phos village, Kandal province near Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Sunday, Sept. 29, 2013.

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—At least 30 people in Cambodia have died in recent floods caused by heavy rains and the Mekong River overflowing its banks, a disaster relief official said Monday.

Keo Vy of Cambodia's disaster management committee the floods have also forced more than 9,000 families to flee their homes and destroyed nearly 100,000 hectares (247,000 acres) of rice fields.

He added that nearly 67,000 houses were damaged or submerged, as well as 513 schools, 300 Buddhist pagodas and 25 health centers. Nine of the country's 24 provinces have been affected so far, he said.

Four people died Sunday night when their car drove into a flooded pond in the eastern province of Prey Veng, police said.

The government warned that the rains will continue as Typhoon Wutip headed toward neighboring Vietnam late Monday.

Fatalities and dislocations caused by floods are an annual problem for Cambodia at this time of year. About 250 people were killed in 2011 in the worst flooding in a decade, according to the government.

This year's flooding death toll already has exceeded the 14 people reported killed by flooding in the relatively dry year of 2012.

World

Weapons experts kick off complex Syria mission

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Inspectors charged with the enormous task of overseeing the destruction of Syria's deadly chemical weapons stockpiles kicked off their mission Monday, racing to meet tight deadlines against the backdrop of civil war.

The Syrian regime lashed out at the rebels, claiming government forces are fighting mostly al-Qaida-linked militants and refusing to talk with the main Western-backed opposition group—a blow to U.S.-Russian efforts to hold a peace conference by November.

New splits within the opposition group, the Syrian National Coalition, also emerged on the conditions for attending the planned conference in Geneva. After meetings with U.S. officials in New York last week, the group's leader expressed readiness to attend talks aimed at establishing a transitional government with full executive powers, leaving open the question of whether President Bashar Assad could stay on.

But other coalition members expressed astonishment, saying they would participate only if they have prior guarantees that Assad would step down.

"Geneva should be the road toward salvation and not the road to rescue Assad and his gang," said Mohammad Sarmini, a Turkey-based coalition member.

All previous efforts at bringing the warring sides together for talks have failed, and it was unclear why the regime would come to the table now that it has the upper hand in the war and the threat of an imminent U.S. military strike has been lifted.

The Russian initiative that averted the strike led to the adoption of a U.N. Security Council resolution to have Syria dismantle its estimated 1,000-ton chemical arsenal by mid-2014. The resolution, passed after two weeks of negotiations, marked a breakthrough in diplomatic efforts since the Syrian uprising began in March 2011.

Wave of bombs across Baghdad kills 55

BAGHDAD (AP)—A new wave of bombs tore through Baghdad on Monday, officials said, killing at least 55 people. Most of the blasts were car bombs detonated in Shiite neighborhoods, the latest of a series of well-coordinated attacks blamed on hard-line Sunni insurgents determined to rekindle large-scale sectarian conflict.

Multiple coordinated bombing strikes have hit Baghdad repeatedly over the last five months. The Shiite-led government has announced new security measures, conducted counter-insurgency sweeps of areas believed to hold insurgent hideouts, and sponsored political reconciliation talks, but has not significantly slowed the pace of the bombing campaign.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the bombings, but they bore the hallmarks of al-Qaida's local branch in Iraq, known as the Islamic State of Iraq. Al-Qaida is believed to be trying to build on the Sunni minority's discontent toward what they consider to be second-class treatment by the government and on infighting between political groups.

In addition to helping al-Qaida gain recruits, the political crisis may also be affecting the security forces' ability to get intelligence from Sunni communities.

"Our war with terrorism goes on," Interior Ministry spokesman Saad Maan told The Associated Press. "Part of the problem is the political infighting and regional conflicts ... There are shortcomings and we need to develop our capabilities mainly in the intelligence-gathering efforts."

The deadliest of Monday's bombings was in the eastern Sadr City district, where a parked car bomb tore through a small vegetable market and its parking lot, killing seven people and wounding 16, a police officer said.

Other parked car bombs went off in quick succession in the Shiite neighborhoods of New Baghdad, Habibiya, Sabaa al-Bour, Kazimiyah, Shaab, Ur, Shula as well as the Sunni neighborhoods of Jamiaa and Ghazaliyah. Police officers said 44 people were killed and 139 wounded.

And in the evening, a roadside bomb outside a Sunni mosque within a refinery compound in the south Baghdad district of Dora killed four and wounded 14. Some such attacks on Sunni targets are blamed on hard-line militants targeting rival Sunnis, but there are also indications that Shiite groups have started to retaliate, raising fears of a return to the widespread sectarian killing of 2006-2007.

Medical officials confirmed the casualty figures in Monday's attacks. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Iraqi security forces sealed off the sites of the attacks as fire fighters struggled to extinguish fires that broke out. The twisted wreckage of cars and remnants of the car bombs littered the pavement.

Iraqi militants often target crowded places such as markets, cafes and mosques, seeking to inflict huge numbers of casualties.

Monday's attacks were the biggest since the Sept. 21 suicide bombings that struck a cluster of funeral tents packed with mourning families in Sadr City, killing at least 104 people.

On Sunday, a series of bombings in different parts of Iraq—including two suicide bombings in the country's relatively peaceful northern Kurdish region—killed 46.

More than 4,500 people have been killed since April. Although overall death tolls are still lower than at the height of the conflict, the cycle of violence is reminiscent of the one that brought Iraq to the brink of civil war.

Iraqi civilians

A recent upsurge in sectarian violence in Iraq, has killed more than 5,000 people so far this year.

Major attacks this month

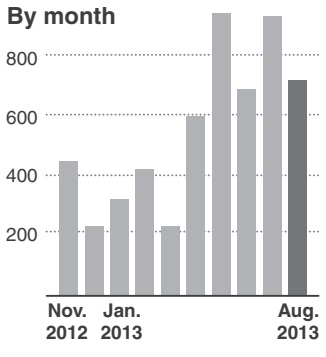
Sept. 30 At least 42 killed in car bombs in mainly Shia areas of Baghdad

Sept. 21 At least 60 killed at funeral in Sadr City, Baghdad

Sept. 15 More than 40 killed in blasts across Iraq mostly targeting Shia areas

Sept. 3 At least 60 killed in mainly Shia districts of Baghdad

Civilian casualties
By month



Source: UN Assistance Mission for Iraq, BBC

© 2013 MCT

Citizens inspect the site of a car bomb attack in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, Sept. 30, 2013. AP

Mall shopkeepers suspect Kenyan troops in thefts

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Jewelry cases smashed. Mobile phones ripped from displays. Cash registers emptied. Alcohol stocks plundered.

For the second time in two months, poorly paid Kenyan security forces that moved in to control an emergency are being accused of robbing the very property they were supposed to protect. First the troops were accused of looting during a huge fire in August at Nairobi's main airport.

Now shop owners at Westgate Mall are returning to their stores after last week's devastating terrorist attack to find displays ransacked and valuables stolen.

One witness told The Associated Press that he saw a Kenyan soldier take cigarettes out of a dead man's pocket.

Shopkeepers spent Monday carting merchandise and other valuables out of their stores and restaurants to prevent any more thefts. No one can say for sure who is responsible, but Kenya's security forces are strongly suspected.

Soon after the attack began on Sept. 21, Kenyan officials put a cordon around the mall, allowing only security forces and a few government personnel to pass through.

Since then, alcohol stocks from the restaurants have been depleted. One business owner at the mall said money and mobile phones were taken from bags and purses left behind in the mayhem. The owner insisted on anonymity to avoid retribution from Kenya's government.

Employees of a book shop on the mall's second floor returned to find registers yanked open and cash gone. The store's laptops were also stolen. All the shop's books remained in place, said owner Paku Tsavani.

Perhaps reluctant to blame Kenyan security forces, Tsavani said he doesn't know who took his goods.

Sudan leader digs in against protests

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—When Sudan's longtime president Omar al-Bashir introduced drastic austerity measures, he berated the public for being ungrateful over how his regime had improved their lives, boasting that before he came to power, Sudanese never ate hot dogs, talking as if they were a strange, luxury food.

For the protesters streaming out into the streets for the past week demanding his ouster, al-Bashir's talk of hot dogs in his Sept. 22 speech was one more sign of how out of touch he has become after 24 years in power. The protests, prompted by cuts in subsidies that sparked dramatic hikes in fuel and food prices, have brought out an unprecedented diversity—from the poor in Khartoum's fringe neighborhoods to upscale districts of the capital.

Al-Bashir's security forces have responded with a fierce crackdown, opening fire on marches. At least 50 people have been killed, and Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahmoud said Monday that 700 people have been arrested, while authorities have clamped down on Sudanese media, trying to impose a blackout on reporting of the events.

The response is a sign of the vulnerability al-Bashir's regime is feeling at a time when it has increasingly been fraying. Discontent has grown within the military and his own ruling party over the 69-year-old president's handling of Sudan's relentless stream of crises. After South Sudan broke away in 2011 and took with it most of the country's oil resources, the economy is in a shambles with inflation mounting and nearly half the population living below the poverty line. The regime has been unable to deal with multiple internal wars that further drain the treasury as ethnic minorities wage insurgencies in the east, west and south, complaining of unequal distribution of power and wealth.

Focus

In this Sunday, Sept. 29, 2013 photo, elderly Filipino women chat at Rizal Park, in Manila, Philippines. AP

Global study: World not ready for aging population

The world is aging so fast that most countries are not prepared to support their swelling numbers of elderly people, according to a global study going out Tuesday by the United Nations and an elder rights group.

The report ranks the social and economic well-being of elders in 91 countries, with Sweden coming out on top and Afghanistan at the bottom. It reflects what advocates for the old have been warning, with increasing urgency, for years: Nations are simply not working quickly enough to cope with a population graying faster than ever before. By the year 2050, for the first time in history, seniors over the age of 60 will outnumber children under the age of 15.

Truong Tien Thao, who runs a small tea shop on the sidewalk near his home in Hanoi, Vietnam, is 65 and acutely aware that he, like millions of others, is plunging into old age without a safety net. He wishes he could retire, but he and his 61-year-old wife depend on the $50 a month they earn from the tea shop. And so every day, Thao rises early to open the stall at 6 a.m. and works until 2 p.m., when his wife takes over until closing.

"People at my age should have a rest, but I still have to work to make our ends meet," he says, while waiting for customers at the shop, which sells green tea, cigarettes and chewing gum. "My wife and I have no pension, no health insurance. I'm scared of thinking of being sick—I don't know how I can pay for the medical care."

Thao's story reflects a key point in the report, which was released early to The Associated Press: Aging is an issue across the world. Perhaps surprisingly, the report shows that the fastest aging countries are developing ones, such as Jordan, Laos, Mongolia, Nicaragua and Vietnam, where the number of older people will more than triple by 2050. All ranked in the bottom half of the index.

The Global AgeWatch Index (http://www.globalagewatch.org) was created by elder advocacy group HelpAge International and the U.N. Population Fund in part to address a lack of international data on the extent and impact of global aging. The index, released on the U.N.'s International Day of Older Persons, compiles data from the U.N., World Health Organization, World Bank and other global agencies, and analyzes income, health, education, employment and age-friendly environment in each country.

ON THE NET
http://www.globalagewatch.org

The index was welcomed by elder rights advocates, who have long complained that a lack of data has thwarted their attempts to raise the issue on government agendas.

"Unless you measure something, it doesn't really exist in the minds of decision-makers," said John Beard, Director of Ageing and Life Course for the World Health Organization. "One of the challenges for population aging is that we don't even collect the data, let alone start to analyze it. ... For example, we've been talking about how people are living longer, but I can't tell you people are living longer and sicker, or longer in good health."

The report fits into an increasingly complex picture of aging and what it means to the world. On the one hand, the fact that people are living longer is a testament to advances in health care and nutrition, and advocates emphasize that the elderly should be seen not as a burden but as a resource. On the other, many countries still lack a basic social protection floor that provides income, health care and housing for their senior citizens.

Afghanistan, for example, offers no pension to those not in the government. Life expectancy is 59 years for men and 61 for women, compared to a global average of 68 for men and 72 for women, according to U.N. data.

That leaves Abdul Wasay struggling to survive. At 75, the former cook and blacksmith spends most of his day trying to sell toothbrushes and toothpaste on a busy street corner in Kabul's main market. The job nets him just $6 a day—barely enough to support his wife. He can only afford to buy meat twice a month; the family relies mainly on potatoes and curried vegetables.

"It's difficult because my knees are weak and I can't really stand for a long time," he says. "But what can I do? It's even harder in winter, but I can't afford treatment."

Although government hospitals are free, Wasay complains that they provide little treatment and hardly any medicine. He wants to stop working in three years, but is not sure his children can support him. He says many older people cannot find work because they are not strong enough to do day labor, and some resort to begging.

"You have to keep working no matter how old you are—no one is rich enough to stop," he says. "Life is very difficult."

Many governments have resisted tackling the issue partly because it is viewed as hugely complicated, negative and costly—which is not necessarily true, says Silvia Stefanoni, chief executive of HelpAge International. Japan and Germany, she says, have among the highest proportions of elders in the world, but also boast steady economies.

"There's no evidence that an aging population is a population that is economically damaged," she says.

Prosperity in itself does not guarantee protection for the old. The world's rising economic powers—the so-called BRICS nations of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa—rank lower in the index than some poorer countries such as Uruguay and Panama.

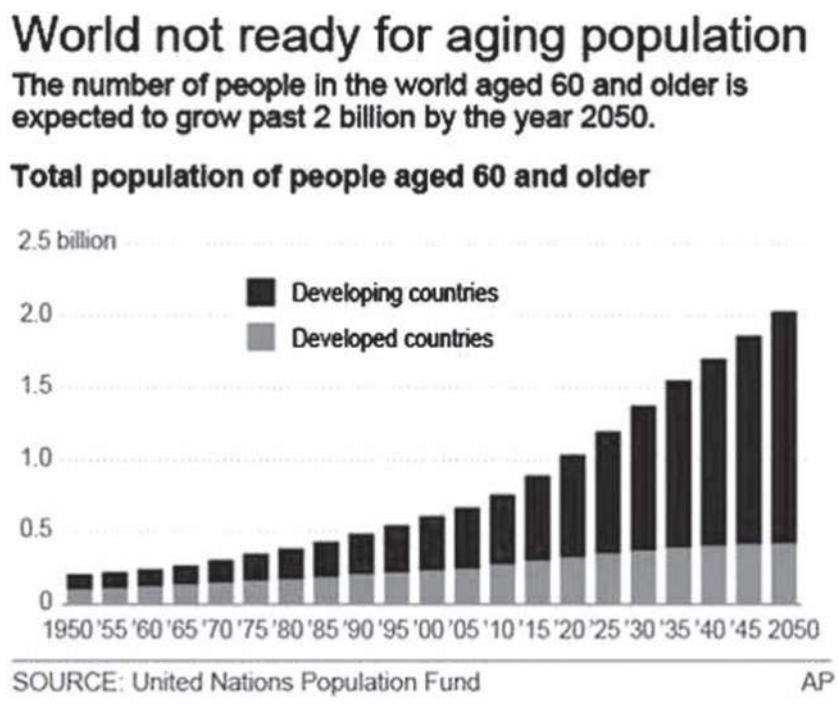
However, the report found, wealthy nations are in general better prepared for aging than poorer ones. Sweden, where the pension system is now 100 years old, makes the top of the list because of its social support, education and health coverage, followed by Norway, Germany, the Netherlands and Canada. The United States comes in eighth.

Sweden's health system earns praise from Marianne Blomberg, an 80-year-old Stockholm resident.

"The health care system, for me, has worked extraordinarily well," she says. "I suffer from atrial fibrillation and from the minute I call emergency until I am discharged, it is absolutely amazing. I can't complain about anything—even the food is good."

Still, even in an elder-friendly country like Sweden, aging is not without its challenges. The Swedish government has suggested people continue working beyond 65, a prospect Blomberg cautiously welcomes but warns should not be a requirement. Blomberg also criticized the nation's finance minister, Anders Borg, for cutting taxes sharply for working Swedes but only marginally for retirees.

"I go to lectures and museums and the theater and those kinds of things, but I probably have to stop that soon because it gets terribly expensive," she says. "If you want to be active like me, it is hard. But to sit home and stare at the walls doesn't cost anything."


World not ready for aging population
The number of people in the world aged 60 and older is expected to grow past 2 billion by the year 2050.
Total population of people aged 60 and older
2.5 billion
2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
0
Developing countries
Developed countries
1950 '55 '60 '65 '70 '75 '80 '85 '90 '95 '00 '05 '10 '15 '20 '25 '30 '35 '40 '45 2050
SOURCE: United Nations Population Fund
AP

Campus Life

32 graduate from Palau's Law Enforcement Academy

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 32 graduates of the 19th Law Enforcement Academy of Palau take their oath of office in front of officials, families, and friends at the Palau Community College cafeteria on Sept. 20, 2013.

On Friday, Sept. 20, 2013, a graduation ceremony was held for the 19th Law Enforcement Academy of Palau. The ceremony was held at the Palau Community College cafeteria.

Palau President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., Vice President and Minister of Justice Antonio Bells, Ibedul Yutaka Gibbons, Reklai Rafael B. Ngirmang, and Senate President Camsek E. Chin were in attendance alongside other government officials to commemorate the newly certified law enforcers.

Fr. John Paul Ililau of the Palau Catholic Mission led the opening prayer, followed by Bells who gave welcoming remarks. Bells congratulated each individual for the completion of training without faltering under the challenges.

In his special remarks, Remengesau recognized the honor that comes with being a law enforcer. He encouraged the newly certified law enforcers to promote peace in Palau without sacrificing their honor.

Some of new graduates were presented with special awards: Perfect Attendance (Joseph Maldangesang and Mike Henry), Outstanding Leadership (Mayce S. Ngirmeriil), Top Physical Fitness (McGee M. Mereb), Top Academic (Stephanie Lorenzo, Etison Sadang, Dilmeringel Ngirmechaet, and Marely Remoket), and Against All Odds (Marely Remoket).

Certificates of completion were then presented to the cadets of the 19th Law Enforcement Academy before they took their oath before an audience of family and friends.

Remengesau, Bells, Gibbons, Ngirmang, and Chin presented the certificates, alongside law enforcement academy Commander Favian Ngiramengior and Director Ismael N. Aguon.

The 19th Law Enforcement Academy of Palau began training on June 17, 2013. Participants included workers from the Division of Customs, Bureau of Immigration, Division of Marine Law Enforcement, and state conservation offices.

Training was conducted through the leadership of Ngiramengior and Deputy Commanders Sabino Kyota Jr., Sherry Sisior, and Clive Telei.

The 32 graduates are Robert B. Johnson (Kayangel State Conservation Officer), Dilmeringel R. Ngirmechaet (Division of Customs), Heline E. Roduk (Bureau of Immigration), Louis P. Tamaggaan (Hatohobei State Conservation Officer), Janee E. Kloulechad (Bureau of Immigration), Ashley Adelbai (Division of Customs), Leon Debengek (Ngaraard State Conservation Officer), Mayce S. Ngirmeriil (Division of Marine Law Enforcement), Henry Mike (Angaur State Conservation Officer), Blaluk C. Anthony (Carolines Resort), Fredrick Antonio Jr. (Division of Customs), Rodrick R. Bausoch (Division of Marine Law Enforcement), Weider Debengek (Kayangel State Conservation Officer), Stephanie Lorenzo (Ngchesar State Conservation Officer), Ngiraiechol L. Renguul (Ngarchelong State Conservation Officer), Lyman Pedro (Ngaraard State Conservation Officer), Leeboy Oilouch (Division of Customs), Lester Nagata (Ngaraard State Conservation Officer), Kenneth West (Ngarchelong State Conservation Officer), Merly Remoket (Division of Customs), Helbert Martin (Division of Marine Law Enforcement), Levi N. Idechong (Bureau of Immigration), Joseph Maldangesang (Ngarchelong State Government), Etison Sadang Jr. (Division of Customs), Joram Bultedaob (Ngchesar State Conservation Officer), Leon Noel (Ngeremlengui State Conservation Officer), Edgar Remeliik (Division of Marine Law Enforcement), Basilius T. Gibbons (Kayangel State Conservation Officer), Francis S. Alonz (Bureau of Immigration), Rodney Marino (Ngeremlengui State Conservation Officer), McGee M. Mereb (Individual), and Deter Olkeriil (Ngaraard State Conservation Officer). ***(PCC)***

State Department official visits PCC

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Deputy Assistant Secretary Dennise G. Mathieu of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs has her picture taken with Palau Community College president Dr. Patrick U. Tellei, CRE vice president Thomas Taro, Administration & Finance vice president Jay Olegeriil, dean of Students Sherman Daniel, and acting dean of Academic Affairs Robert Ramarui. Others in photo are U.S. Embassy chargê d'affaires Thomas P. Daley and political/economic specialist Joyce Isechal.

Deputy Assistant Secretary Dennise G. Mathieu of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State, recently visited the Palau Community College.

Mathieu was accompanied by U.S. Embassy chargê d'affaires Thomas P. Daley and political/economic specialist Joyce Isechal during her Sept. 13 visit.

PCC president Dr. Patrick U. Tellei met with the guests along with CRE vice president Thomas Taro, Administration & Finance vice president Jay Olegeriil, dean of Students Sherman Daniel, and acting dean of Academic Affairs Robert Ramarui.

Tellei gave the visitors a brief historical overview about the college and its programs. He also shared the school's plans to add more programs to its list of courses in response to the needs of Palau and the region. In addition, Tellei stressed the importance of improving communication systems on the island, particularly the Internet connection to the outside world, to enhance learning opportunities for the various learners in Palau. ***(PCC)***

SAT scores remain mostly stagnant

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scores on the SAT college entrance exam were largely stagnant for a third year, although African-American students made slight gains, the College Board said Thursday.

Average scores in reading, math, and writing were the same in 2012 and 2013.

Students scored an average 496 in reading, down one point from 2011. Average math scores have remained stuck at 514 over the last three years. And the average writing score, 488, was down one point from 2011.

The top score possible on each section is 800 and the highest possible score is 2400. A perfect score was achieved in 2013 by 494 people—less than a third of 1 percent of all test takers, according to the College Board, a nonprofit membership organization of schools and colleges that owns the exam.

Men, on average, scored better in reading and math, while women on average did better in writing.

African-American students on average scored 431 in reading, 429 in math and 418 in writing. That's slightly higher than the previous two years.

The average for all Hispanic students was 450 in reading, 461 in math, and 443 in in writing. On average, they did slightly better in reading and writing this year than last, but math scores declined by one point.

For American Indian and Alaskan natives, scores have mostly decreased slightly since 2011. The average score in 2013 was 480 in reading, 486 in math and 461 in writing.

Asian students on average scored 521 in reading, 597 in math and 527 in writing. The scores in 2013 for the minority group were slightly better in reading and math than the two years before, although in writing the score was one point less than the previous two years.

Life & Style

Lloyd Webber's new show mines '60s sex and scandal

LONDON (AP)—He's done the Bible, felines, operatic phantoms and Argentine politics. So what is Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest musical about?

Sex—as well as politics, spying, social revolution and the Cold War.

"Stephen Ward" centers on a sensational real-life scandal, the 1963 revelation that Britain's war secretary, John Profumo, was involved with model Christine Keeler, who was also sleeping with a Soviet naval attache. If, as poet Philip Larkin once said, sex began in 1963, the "Profumo affair" was the Big Bang.

With its collision of sex, wealth and national security, the Profumo affair rattled Britain's Establishment, came close to toppling the government, and fascinated the nation.

But Lloyd Webber says his musical, which opens in London in December, is about more than the scandal—it's a portrait of a "febrile time" of tumultuous social change.

"The Profumo affair takes up three minutes of stage time," the composer told The Associated Press on Monday at a preview of songs from the show. But the ripples are still being felt. "It's just extraordinary, really, the ramifications of what went on."

Lloyd Webber said he grew fascinated by Stephen Ward, a well-connected osteopath with a knack for bringing together the powerful, the beautiful and the sexually adventurous at the swingingest of Swinging London soirees.

It was Ward who introduced Keeler to Profumo, during a party at an aristocrat's country house. After the scandal erupted he was arrested, accused of pimping, tried and convicted of living off "immoral earnings." He died from an overdose of sleeping pills before he could be jailed.

Lloyd Webber—composer of "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Cats," "Phantom of the Opera" and "Evita"—said the more he found out, the more convinced he became that Ward had been made a scapegoat.

He said Ward's conviction could be seen as "one of the great perversions of justice," and is an episode still shrouded in secrecy.

"To this day you still cannot get a transcript of the trial, which is completely extraordinary," Lloyd Webber said. Some of the documents connected to the scandal have been ordered sealed to the public until 2046.

The musical, which opens at London's Aldwych theatre in December, is Lloyd Webber's first new show since the "Phantom" sequel "Love Never Dies," which opened in 2010 to mixed reviews. Book and lyrics are by Christopher Hampton and Don Black—the same team that wrote Lloyd Webber's "Sunset Boulevard."

Journalists and industry guests got a glimpse of the new show Monday at a preview inside a strip bar-turned-nightclub in London's once-sleazy, now slightly sanitized Soho district.

A cast that includes West End veteran Alexander Hanson as Ward and 21-year-old Charlotte Spencer as Keeler performed several songs, including an opener, "Human Sacrifice," that sees the vilified Ward relegated to a wax museum house of horrors, "stuck between Hitler and the Acid Bath Murderer," an English serial killer during the 1940s.

Another number was a jaunty ode to the new sexual freedoms, titled after a political slogan of the day: "You've never had it so good." The next line is: "You've never had it so often."

There are lyrics that saucily allude to spanking and "jolly threesomes in Belgravia"—rhymed with "misbehavior."

While Ward was doomed by the scandal, Profumo resigned, spent the rest of his life doing charity work, and died in 2006. The two central women involved, Keeler and her friend Mandy Rice-Davies, remain famous for their association with the events of 50 years ago.

Keeler is not involved with the production, but Rice-Davies—then a topless dancer, now an elegant woman approaching 70—has helped with background and research.

AP

From left, composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, actress Charlotte Blackledge, who plays model and showgirl Mandy Rice Davies, actor Alexander Hanson, as osteopath Stephen Ward, Charlotte Spencer starring as showgirl Christine Keeler, and director Richard Eyre, during the launch photocall of Lloyd Webber's new musical 'Stephen Ward', in London, Monday, Sept. 30, 2013.

NYC library offers list of 100 great kids' books

NEW YORK (AP)—Beloved authors Judy Blume and Eric Carle helped the New York Public Library celebrate children's literature Monday as the library released a list of 100 great books from the last 100 years.

The list includes picture books for preschoolers as well as books for older readers like "The Hobbit" and "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

"The Cat in the Hat," "Pippi Longstocking" and "Where the Wild Things Are" all made the list, which accompanies an exhibit on children's literature at the library's main building in midtown Manhattan.

Blume and Carle joined librarians for a reading and panel discussion.

"Viewed over time, children's books are the collected memory of our hopes and dreams," said moderator Leonard Marcus, a book critic and the curator of the exhibit. "They are the message in a bottle that each generation tosses out to the next generation in the hope that it may wash ashore and be read and be taken to heart."

Blume, whose "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing" is on the list, said that when she was in the fourth grade herself she always had stories in her head.

"But I never told anybody about them because I thought if I did they would think I was weird," she said.

Since Blume began publishing in the 1970s, many of her books dealing with subjects like racism, divorce and sexuality have been banned by authorities who considered the topics inappropriate for children.

"Books that are loved by children are often the books that scare adults," Blume said.

Carle made the library's list with "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," his 1969 picture book about a voracious bug that becomes a butterfly. He said he created the caterpillar by folding and manipulating paper; he first thought of the character as a bookworm, Willie the Worm.

"And I had this wonderful editor and she didn't like the worm so much," Carle said.

Students from Public School 41 in Greenwich Village and Our Lady Queen of Angels School in East Harlem sat up front as the two authors read from their work.

Fourth-grader Brianna Astacio of Our Lady Queen of Angels said Blume's "Double Fudge" was her favorite book because "it's funny."

Carle read his brand-new book, "Friends," about a boy who swims across a river and climbs a mountain in search of his friend.

Spoiler alert: He finds her.

In Loving Memory

†Alfonso Arriola Palacios

July 15, 1933- September 27, 2013

In his new life, He now joins:
His Parents, †Lucia San Miguel Arriola and †Jose Muna Palacios
His Parents In-law, †Jose Cabrera Pangelinan and †Maria Reyes
His Step-Son, †David P. Sablan
His Son In-Laws, †Dae-Young (Daniel) Park
†Thomas Fujihira Ada
†Joaquin Guillermo Adriano
His Brothers, †Jose A. Palacios, †Miguel A. Palacios
His Brother In-laws, †Juan Rios Mafnas, †Jose Concepcion,
†Francisco R. Pangelinan

His Memories Will Forever Live in the Hearts of his
Wife, Emilia Pangelinan Palacios
Children,
Jose P. & Vicente Muna Sablan and Children, Antonio P. Sablan & Patricia Concepcion and Children
Consuelo P. & Gregorio Baza and Children, Marian Palacios & Alvin Ogo and Children
Barbara P. & +Thomas Ada and Children, Alexander P. Sablan & Cecilia Repeki and Children
Donald P. Palacios & Elizabeth Tebuteb and Children, Regina Pangelinan,
Albert P. Palacios & Tricia Babauta and Children, Summer P. Palacios.

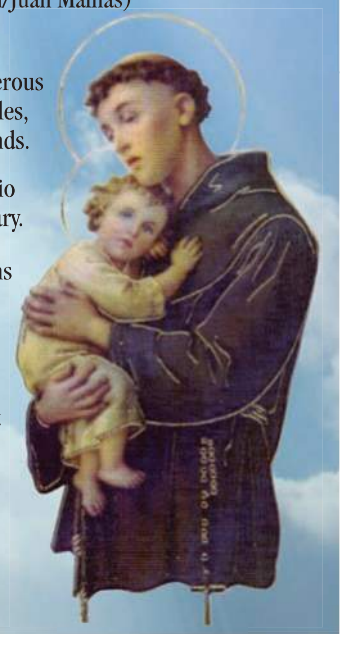
Brothers/Sisters and Spouses,
†Jose & Lolita Palacios and Family. Dolores P. & †Joaquin Deleon Guerrero and Family Ana P. & Francisco Sablan and Family, †Miguel A. & Pilar Palacios and Family, Maria (Mako) & Estanislao (Yoshi) Fujihara and Family, Jesus A. & Leonora Palacios and Family, Carmen P. & Joey Dela Cerna, Eleuterio A. & Erlinda Palacios and Family, Antonio A. & Congxiang Palacios and Family.

In-laws and Spouses
Victoria P. Concepcion †(Jose Concepcion/Juan Mafnas) and Hilarion P. & Maxima Dlc. Pangelinan

Alfonso will also be remembered by numerous Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren, Uncles, Aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.

Nightly Mass is being offered at San Antonio Church 6:00pm followed by the Holy Rosary.

On Saturday, October 05, 2013 his remains will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center to San Antonio Church at 7:30am followed by Responso and Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30am, followed by interment service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.



Please join us in prayer.
Thank you and Si Yu'us Maase

The Family

NBC, CNN back out of Hillary Clinton TV projects

NEW YORK (AP)—For a couple of months, NBC and CNN had been working on high-profile television projects about Hillary Rodham Clinton. Within a few hours on Monday, both projects were dead.

NBC said it was pulling the plug on a planned four-hour miniseries on the Democratic former first lady and secretary of state. "Hillary," which was to star Diane Lane in the feature role and appear before the 2016 election, was the target of external protests and internal unhappiness at NBC.

Earlier Monday, an Academy Award-winning filmmaker who was making a documentary about Clinton for CNN said that he was backing out because few people would cooperate with him. The network said the film would not be produced.

The Republican National Committee had protested both projects, fearing they would lionize Clinton when she might be a candidate for president. The RNC said it would not allow either network to air televised debates among potential GOP candidates for president for 2016 if the films continued.

Clinton

NBC Entertainment issued a statement saying that "after reviewing and prioritizing our slate of movie and miniseries development, we've decided that we will no longer continue developing the Hillary Clinton miniseries." The statement gave no reason for the change, and spokesman Richard Licata did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

The announcement by NBC's entertainment division this summer that it was making "Hillary" took people in the network's news division by surprise. They were concerned that the news division would be blamed if the entertainment series took liberties with facts or leaned too far in making a positive or a negative portrayal of Clinton.

NBC News Washington correspondents Chuck Todd and Andrea Mitchell made their unease about the miniseries public.

CNN, meanwhile, had contracted with Charles Ferguson to make a documentary on Clinton. Ferguson won the 2011 Academy Award for his documentary "Inside Job," about the 2008 financial meltdown.

But Ferguson wrote in a column posted on The Huffington Post on Monday that he concluded he couldn't make much of a film: Clinton wouldn't agree to be interviewed, and of the more than 100 people he approached only two who had dealt with her agreed to speak on camera.

Ferguson said nobody was interested in helping him make the film.

"Not Republicans, not Democrats—and certainly nobody who works with the Clintons, wants access to the Clintons or dreams of a position in a Hillary Clinton administration," he said.

CNN understood and respected Ferguson's decision, CNN spokeswoman Barbara Levin said Monday.

Ferguson, through his manager's office, declined an interview request. But he wrote:

"It's a victory for the Clintons, and for the money machines that both political parties have now become. But I don't think that it's a victory for the media, or the American people. I still believe that Mrs. Clinton has many virtues including great intelligence, fortitude and a deep commitment to bettering the lives of women and children worldwide. But this is not her finest hour."

Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill, asked for a comment on Ferguson's decision, said, "Lights, camera, no reaction."

The decision doesn't necessarily open the door to the networks to televise Republican debates in 2016, the RNC said. Spokeswoman Kirsten Kukowski said CNN hadn't decided on its own to abandon the project but was only doing so because the filmmaker quit. She said the party plans to take firmer control of its debate process in 2016; many Republicans thought there were too many debates in 2012.

Channeling Andy Warhol for Sirius series

NEW YORK (AP)—Wind up Robin Williams and the stories pour out—how he developed his accent for "Mrs. Doubtfire," found out "Mork & Mindy" was canceled by reading about it in a newspaper, and the remark that abruptly ended his appearance on a German talk show.

Old friend Whoopi Goldberg steered the conversation last week at SiriusXM, part of a town hall program that's swiftly becoming a programming signature at the satellite radio service.

Sirius' town halls bring artists together, usually when they have new projects to promote, with a small group of fans for hour-long discussions sent out to the satellite radio system's 25 million subscribers. Portions are fed out to a larger audience through Sirius' YouTube channel.

Williams

The series began by chance two years ago when Bruce Springsteen was touting his "Darkness on the Edge of Town" reissue. Sirius subscribers were brought in to meet their hero and asked about what Springsteen would want his children to know about the 1978 disc and how his writing was affected by the death of Elvis Presley, the latter question leading the singer to pick up his guitar to demonstrate.

There have since been more than 70 such encounters with artists and personalities.

"We could have one every day if we wanted," said Scott Greenstein, SiriusXM president and chief content officer. "But we want the bar to remain fairly high."

Sirius is influenced by Andy Warhol's old Interview magazine in an effort to occasionally match interview subjects with other personalities. Burt Bacharach was interviewed by occasional songwriting partner Elvis Costello, Tony Bennett by Alec Baldwin, Mel Brooks by Judd Apatow and Ringo Starr by Russell Brand.

Williams had an easy familiarity with Goldberg, who sometimes needed to do little more than name the title of a movie to get Williams going.

"It's so immediate and honest," said David Steinberg, Williams' manager. "When you get people together who like each other, they're not guarded in what they talk about. It just flows."

Steinberg, who also brought client Billy Crystal in for a town hall, watched from a control room adjacent to the glass-enclosed "fishbowl" where Williams and Goldberg sat before about a dozen Sirius subscribers. (For the record, it was a Holocaust-inspired comment 30 years ago that didn't go over well at the German talk show.)

Williams appeared to enjoy the interaction, even as he told of one episode where his maniacally energetic comedy worked against him. He was in a Minneapolis airport one time when a fan came up to him with a two-word command: "Be zany."

"It's like walking up to Baryshnikov and saying, `Dance, little Russian boy,'" he said. "It's like, Lincoln freed the slaves."

Williams said when the Sirius session was done that it wasn't as raucous as he had anticipated.

"It's a different feeling than I thought it was going to be," he said. "But it worked."

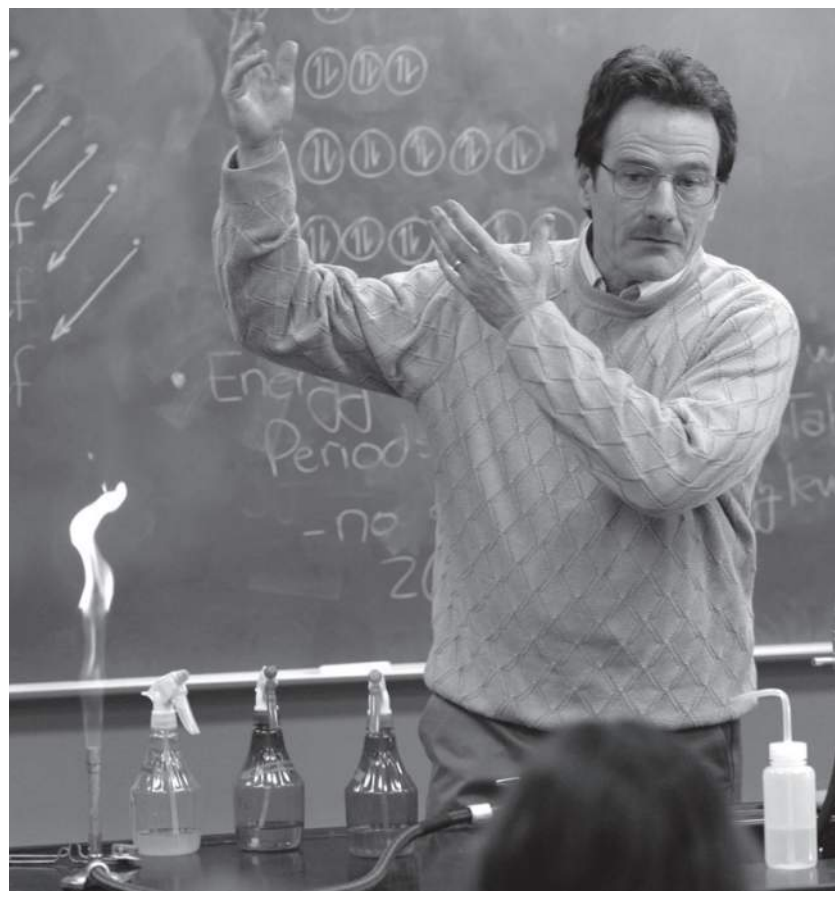
For Sirius, the sessions reward subscribers along with providing original content. About 10 to 20 Sirius subscribers are chosen to participate in a town hall, a selection process that is an advertising opportunity in itself.

"It's a very smart, discerning, now very large and credit card-bearing audience," Greenstein said. "It's an ideal audience for any artist."

Sirius' status as a promotional magnet and the fishbowl's central location lead to some celebrity traffic jams. Members of the rock band Korn peered through the window at Williams and Goldberg, while musicians Nick Lowe and Graham Nash chatted off to the side. When Bruno Mars walked by Henry Winkler's session, the Fonz jumped up to grab him for a mutual admiration meeting.

'Breaking Bad' ends, but 10 lessons linger

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER



AP

This image released by AMC shows Walter White, played by Bryan Cranston, teaching chemistry class in a scene from the pilot episode of "Breaking Bad." The series finale of the popular drama series aired on Sunday, Sept. 29.

NEW YORK (AP)—Sunday's "Breaking Bad" turned out the lights on one of the darkest shows in television history.

Even as this drama cooked up storylines that celebrated evil and depravity, "Breaking Bad" gleamed with a bright side, too. There were plenty of positive messages for the viewer who acknowledged them during the series' five-season run.

Here are 10 lessons "Breaking Bad" leaves behind:

1. Stay in school and study hard!

As Walter White demonstrated after he ditched teaching for producing crystal meth, you can make millions from a subject like chemistry that far too many youngsters (including Mr. White's bored students) find annoying and useless. Walt (aka drug lord Heisenberg) proved otherwise with his storage shed of money.

2. Chemistry has everyday applications.

The next time you dispose of a corpse with hydrofluoric acid, all you devoted "Breaking Bad" viewers will know not to dissolve the body in a bathtub, but instead in a plastic container. You learned this valuable tip in Season 1, when Walt's lab assistant Jesse Pinkman disregarded his instructions and regretted it. The acid memorably dissolved through the bathtub and floor at Jesse's house, leaving a bloody mess in the hallway downstairs. You won't make that mistake.

3. Family is oh, so important.

"Breaking Bad" reminds you that entering the drug trade and messing with the wrong people in it can lead to your wife and teenage son despising you. It can also lead to your brother-in-law getting brutally murdered. You would hate that if it happened.

4. Build a better mousetrap!

Steve Jobs knew it. Jeff Bezos knows it. Walt White serves as a mythical champion of their kind of acumen: Offer a better product with an obvious advantage, and the world (or, anyway, addicts who loved Walt's super-potent "blue sky" crystal meth) will beat a path to your door.

5. Need a lift? Try a personal makeover.

If you're stuck in a rut, like Walter White at the start of "Breaking Bad," consider a new look. Shave your head, grow a tidy, I-mean-business beard and fit yourself with a black pork pie hat. Then come up with a new name. Like Heisenberg. In your new identity, people will fear you and you're sure to go far.

6. Keep your personal vehicles, especially your RV, in good running order.

A regular checkup to keep Walt's rolling meth lab in tip-top shape would have spared him and Jesse inconvenience, not to mention mortal danger.

7. Keep a shrewd lawyer on call, especially if you mean to routinely break the law.

Sure, he may be a sleazebag and a shameless self-promoter. But a lawyer like Saul Goodman ("Better call Saul!") is worth his weight in hundred-dollar bills to a client like Walter White, whom he represented faithfully, if more than often sarcastically. With his mastery of trade practices—legal and illegal—Saul was the most impressive TV lawyer since Perry Mason.

8. Like it or hate it, Obamacare might cut down on illegal drug trade (at least on TV).

If financially strapped schoolteacher Walt White had had better health care when he got his cancer diagnosis, maybe he wouldn't have begun cooking meth to help cover his expenses. Meanwhile, his long-term problem—leaving his family provided for after his death—might have been a non-issue had teachers in his district been better paid. On the other hand, if Walt had found himself in less of a jam, there would have been no "Breaking Bad."

9. Finish what you start.

It's never good to leave hanging important tasks. Walt is a shining example of a guy determined to tie up loose ends. That was part of why the "Breaking Bad" finale was so good.

10. Follow your bliss (and be willing to forge a different path getting there).

Walter White discovered this lesson. Vince Gilligan demonstrated its wisdom in real life by creating "Breaking Bad," a radically different series. So did AMC execs by airing what turned out to be perhaps the best drama of all time. How many other networks are willing to learn?

Lady Gaga to perform at 1st YouTube Music Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—YouTube is launching its own music awards and Lady Gaga will perform at the first-time event.

The Google Inc.-owned company announced Tuesday that Eminem and Arcade Fire also will perform at the YouTube Music Awards on Nov. 3. It will take place at Pier 36 in New York City and stream live online.

The awards show will honor "artists and songs that YouTube fans have turned into global hits over the past year." Nominees will be announced Oct. 17.

Actor Jason Schwartzman will host the YouTube Music Awards. A press release says the awards show will also feature events from Seoul, Moscow, London and Brazil.

Stars come out for Timberlake at iTunes festival

LONDON (AP)—A host of stars turned out to experience Justin Timberlake's headline gig at the iTunes Festival in London.

The Grammy-winning singer Adele, actors Benedict Cumberbatch and Elizabeth McGovern were among the audience at London's Roundhouse on Sunday night.

"Star Trek" stars Chris Pine and Alice Eve plus TV chef Jamie Oliver also watched Timberlake mix fresh songs from his new album, "The 20/20 Experience 2 Of 2," with favorites like "Cry Me A River" and "SexyBack."

Timberlake called London crowds the best in the world and joked that he was getting too old for it, when he was too sweaty to talk on stage.

Katy Perry closes the iTunes Festival on Monday night.

AP

In this July 12, 2013, file photo, Justin Timberlake performs during the Wireless Festival at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London.

'Breaking Bad' logs record 10.3M viewers in finale

NEW YORK (AP)—AMC says Sunday's "Breaking Bad" finale seized a record-breaking number of viewers for the series.

The concluding episode was seen by 10.3 million viewers. That was three times the audience for the midseason finale airing a year ago.

The network says an expanded one-hour version of its "Talking Bad" discussion after-show delivered 4.4 million viewers.

The drama's popularity has soared during its five-season run, while it reaped acclaim and awards. At last week's Emmy Awards it collected a best-drama-series trophy and a supporting-actress statuette for Anna Gunn, who played the wife of teacher-turned-drug-lord Walter White opposite series star Bryan Cranston.

The series' previous record was set last Sunday, when 6.6 million viewers tuned at the same time as the Emmys.

Nickelodeon gets into radio with Clear Channel

NEW YORK (AP)—Nickelodeon is getting into the radio business.

The children's entertainment network has joined forces with Clear Channel Media and Entertainment to create its own station on Clear Channel's online iHeartRadio.

Nick Radio launched Monday with "The Way" singer Ariana Grande—also star of Nick's "Sam & Cat"—as featured guest DJ, along with another Nickelodeon act, Big Time Rush.

With its entry into radio, Nick Radio will provide some competition for Radio Disney, Disney's terrestrial and Internet radio stations. Like Radio Disney, Nick Radio will feature kid-friendly Top 40 music, stars from its network and celebrity interviews.

Besides iHeartRadio, it will also be on Nickelodeon's own website.

AP

This Sept. 3, 2013 file photo shows singer Ariana Grande performing on NBC's "Today" show in New York.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

NPR commentator Dan Zevin wins Thurber humor prize

NEW YORK (AP)—The judges have made it official: Essayist and NPR commentator Dan Zevin is funny. Zevin has been declared the winner of the Thurber Prize for American Humor. He received the $5,000 award on Monday for his parenting book "Dan Gets a Mini-Van: Life at the Intersection of Dude and Dad." The other finalists were Shalom Auslander's "Hope, a Tragedy" and a collaboration between Dave Barry and Alan Zweibel called "Lunatics." The prize was founded in 1996 and is named for the late author and illustrator James Thurber, who was known for the short stories and cartoons he contributed to The New Yorker magazine. Previous winners include David Sedaris, Christopher Buckley and Calvin Trillin.

Thatcher, bumblebee books up for nonfiction prize

LONDON (AP)—Books about Margaret Thatcher, Roman Britain and bumblebees are among finalists for Britain's leading nonfiction book prize. Charles Moore's "Margaret Thatcher: The Authorized Biography," Charlotte Higgins' portrait of ancient Britain, "Under Another Sky," and "A Sting in the Tale" by bee conservationist Dave Goulson are on the shortlist for the Samuel Johnson Prize. The other contenders, announced Monday, are "Empires of the Dead," a history of World War I cemeteries by David Crane; William Dalrymple's 19th-century Afghan saga "Return of the King"; and "The Pike," a biography of Italian fascist Gabriele D'Annunzio by Lucy Hughes-Hallett. The 20,000 ($32,000) prize recognizes English-language books from any country in the areas of current affairs, history, politics, science, sport, travel, biography, autobiography and the artsThe winner will be announced Nov. 4.

Tenor Alagna and soprano Kurzak having a baby

NEW YORK (AP)—Tenor Roberto Alagna and soprano Aleksandra Kurzak have something to sing about: They're having a baby. The Metropolitan Opera announced Monday that Kurzak has withdrawn from a revival of Verdi's "Rigoletto" because of her pregnancy. The Met says Kurzak will be replaced by Irina Lungu in the first three performances of the run that opens Nov. 1 and by Sonya Yoncheva in the final five. Alagna married soprano Angela Gheorghiu in 1996 on stage at the Metropolitan Opera with then-New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani presiding. Gheorghiu said in 2009 they had been separated for two years and were divorcing. They later reconciled, but Gheorghiu said in January they were divorcing.

Mr. Right's only wrong is hanging out with his exes

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating Mr. Right for two years. "Phil" is the man I want to spend my life with. When we are together privately, everything is perfect.

The problem is, Phil hangs out with his old college buddies every few weeks or months, and it often involves his ex-girlfriends. They don't hang out alone. There is always at least one other person there. The situations usually include drinking, which worries me.

In my opinion, Phil should not be seeing his exes, even though his college friends are still buddies with them. Phil doesn't understand why I think this is so wrong. I am uncomfortable and think he should avoid these situations.

Am I overly jealous, or should I call it quits because he won't respect my feelings on the matter?

HOME ALONE IN KOKOMO

DEAR HOME ALONE: I don't think you are overly jealous, but I do think you may be overly insecure. Has Phil given you any reason to think he has cheated on you? If not, you should trust that he is doing nothing more than hanging out occasionally with old friends.

You say he is encountering exes (plural) when he sees his male friends. If it was just one, you might have cause to worry. Remember, these women are exes for a reason. Unless you want to be another ex, you should lighten up because insecurity and possessiveness are unattractive traits.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: We have lived next door to a couple, "Evie" and "Earl," for five years. I thought we were good friends. Over the years, I vented to Evie about my relationship with my daughter-in-law, "Cate." I watch my two grandkids most of the week and have complained to her about Cate's poor parenting skills.

Last summer, my daughter-in-law made a concerted effort to befriend Evie, and they now socialize together—even though Cate flirted with Earl and Evie didn't like it. This has pretty much killed my friendship with Evie and worsened my relationship with my D-I-L.

This has affected me emotionally and physically to the point that I either want to cut off ties with my son and/or move—neither of which is really an option. I have tried talking to both parties to no avail. I don't know what to do. Please help.

BETRAYED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR BETRAYED: If you had concerns about your daughter-in-law's parenting skills, the person you should have discussed them with was Cate. And if Evie was as good a friend as you thought, she wouldn't be hanging around with your daughter-in-law to the exclusion of you.

I assume that you, your son and Cate are still on speaking terms and you're still watching the kids "most of the week." If that's not true and you have been cut off by everyone, then the most important thing you need to do is take care of your mental and physical health. Accept that Evie will never be your buddy again and start socializing with others.

If you are no longer watching your grandchildren, your son and D-I-L will have to make alternative arrangements for childcare, which will cost them money they may be reluctant to spend. Then it will be in their interest as well as yours to make peace.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

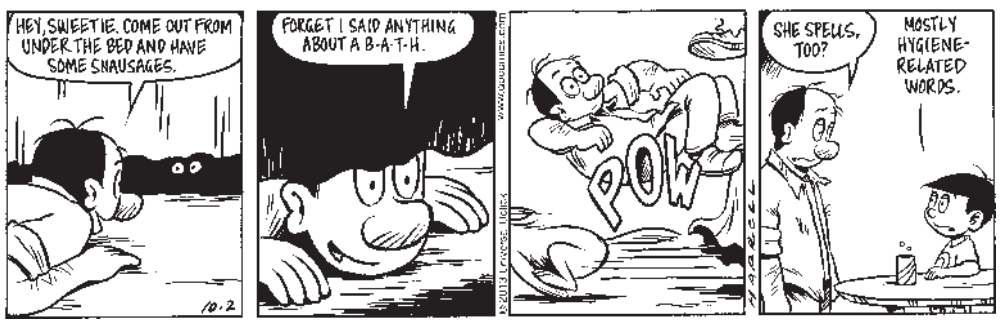
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

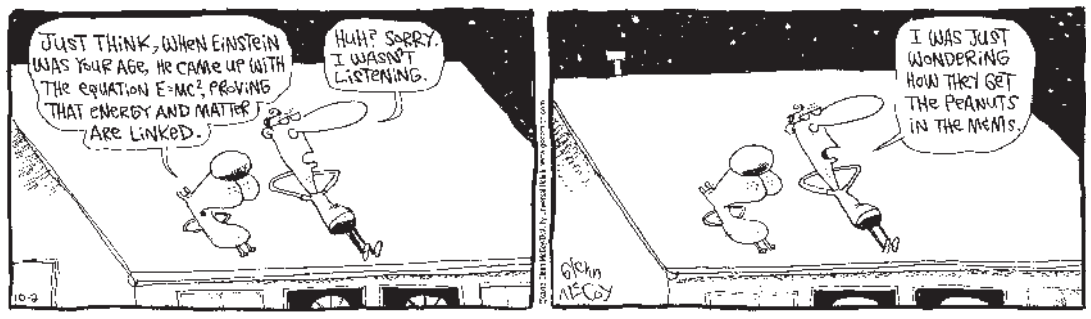
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HEY, SWEETIE. COME OUT FROM UNDER THE BED AND HAVE SOME SNAUSAGES.
FORGET I SAID ANYTHING ABOUT A B-A-T-H.
POW
SHE SPELLS, TOO?
MOSTLY HYGIENE-RELATED WORDS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


JUST THINK, WHEN EINSTEIN WAS YOUR AGE, HE CAME UP WITH THE EQUATION E=MC², PROVING THAT ENERGY AND MATTER ARE LINKED.
HUH? SORRY. I WASN'T LISTENING.
I WAS JUST WONDERING HOW THEY GET THE PEANUTS IN THE MEMS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

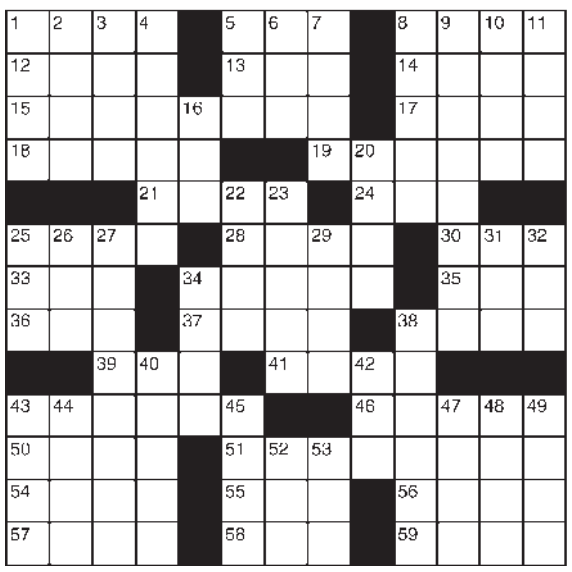
ACROSS
1 Small songbird
5 Army rank (Abbr.)
8 "New Girl" role
12 Employ
13 Man-mouse link
14 October birthstone
15 Like soap operas, e.g.
17 Green land
18 First extra inning
19 ATM feature
21 Hay there?
24 Fire residue
25 Gratis
28 Meadows
30 High card
33 Back talk
34 Very quick
35 Unfavorable vote
36 Japanese sash
37 Elevator name
38 Information quantity
39 PC linking system
41 Transaction
43 Hot (Sl.)
46 Active folks
50 Incite
51 Delivery room shot
54 Gloomy
55 Joan of —
56 Slugger Sammy
57 Undo a dele
58 Trigger's rider
59 Catch sight of

DOWN
1 Sharpen
2 Mature
3 Ms. Brocko-vich
4 Get snug and cozy
5 Stylish, to Austin Powers
6 "Entou-rage" role
7 — Frost
8 Baby kanga-roos
9 Sudden realiza-tion
10 Poet Teasdale
11 Coaster
16 Discover-er's cry
20 Simple
22 Move like a butterfly
23 Luke-warm
25 "Alice" role
26 Eve, originally
27 Literary coda
29 Church section
31 Garfield or Heathcliff
32 CBS logo
34 Region
38 Woman's top
40 Watchful
42 Toss in
43 Lather
44 Jog
45 Approach
47 Cupid's alter ego
48 Grate
49 Dispatch
52 Expert
53 Unfriendly

Solution time: 21 mins.

N	O	N	O	■	H	O	R	■	V	O	T	E
C	W	E	R	■	A	W	E	■	A	V	I	D
B	L	O	C	K	I	N	G	■	L	U	R	E
■	■	■	H	F	R	■	A	C	U	M	F	N
C	A	B	I	N	■	P	L	I	E	■	■	■
O	W	E	D	■	B	L	I	N	D	I	N	G
M	O	A	■	T	R	A	N	Q	■	V	E	E
B	L	U	S	H	I	N	G	■	O	A	S	I
■	■	■	I	C	K	■	I	U	N	T	S	■
S	H	R	I	N	K	■	K	I	T	■	■	■
H	O	O	F	■	B	I	F	S	S	I	N	G
A	B	U	T	■	A	Y	E	■	E	R	I	E
D	O	T	S	■	T	E	N	■	T	E	L	L

Yesterday's answer 10-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelly Ripa, 43; Lorraine Bracco, 59; Sting, 62; Donna Karan, 65.

Happy Birthday: You will have to change the way you handle others. Expect to encounter a shift within important relationships that will set the stage for what's to come. Refuse to be mesmerized by someone offering the impossible or making an unlikely promise. Put more effort into your home and the environment you live in as well as your emotional and financial future. Your numbers are 3, 8, 18, 24, 28, 35, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Collaborate with people who work in a similar industry or share your goals. Favorable changes will result and you will find good partners for future projects. Make home improvements, but don't go over budget. Physical activity will do you good. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Expand on an idea you have. Use all your skills to prove to others that you are capable of living up to any promise you make. Relationships will improve, but you must be willing to compromise. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let criticism get you down. If you feel good about what you are doing, that's all that matters. Do your own thing and avoid emotional encounters that might stifle your progress. Focus on finishing what you start. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Put more into creative endeavors. Expand your spiritual awareness and look for enlightenment in whatever you pursue. Love and romance are apparent, and nurturing a relationship or looking for love should be your intent. It's up to you to make things happen. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Look for new ways to offer the services or talents that you specialize in. Don't let personal responsibilities hinder you from branching out in directions that suit your personality and your needs. Focus on change and adventure. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Stay focused on what you have to do. Offer incentives and make emotional pleas if it will help you get what you want. The results will be favorable if you are willing to pay the price. Romance looks promising. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take charge and make things happen. Don't waffle when it's vital that you are ready to leap into action. Change may not be welcomed, but it will be inevitable, so do your best to stay prepared and adaptable. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Play, have fun and enjoy finding out about unusual interests, cultures and possibilities. Make personal changes to your home and lifestyle and let love and romance lead to new and exciting plans for the future. New beginnings will bring endless variety. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Be leery of anyone using emotional blackmail or being evasive. Take action and protect your assets, possessions and relationships that are important to you. Don't let anyone push change on you, but be willing to make changes that are necessary. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Learn all you can and establish your position amongst your peers. You have plenty to gain by being a team player and building relationships with those who have something to offer in return. Partnerships can be formed. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Misinformation will cause you to miss out on an opportunity. Ask questions and get the facts straight to avoid loss or damage to your reputations. Gains can be made, but only if you are ready to take action. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Romance should be given precedence. You can help develop a closer bond with someone special by taking part in something you enjoy doing together. Your unique way of doing and seeing things will attract attention. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are inquisitive and pragmatic. You take pride in being precise.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2	5	9	3	8			
	3		4			2		
8				1			3	
7				6			5	
9	5	6	8	4			1	
	1	2	3				6	
							2	
							8	
				2	4	5	7	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	8	5	1	7	4	6	2	3
3	4	2	8	6	5	9	1	7
1	7	6	3	2	9	4	5	8
5	6	3	2	4	8	7	9	1
4	2	1	9	5	7	8	3	6
7	9	8	6	3	1	5	4	2
2	1	7	5	9	6	3	8	4
8	5	4	7	1	3	2	6	9
6	3	9	4	8	2	1	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LAZY DAYS — Solution: 7 letters

K	(N)	S	E	I	H	C	N	U	M	M	L	O	A	F
X	(A)	L	R	E	A	D	E	B	O	E	O	S	E	R
E	(P)	E	S	W	O	R	D	E	V	L	I	T	R	E
T	R	T	R	Z	I	N	U	O	I	L	T	C	O	C
A	E	U	E	B	I	G	N	T	E	O	E	E	T	H
N	M	G	C	W	I	D	U	E	S	W	R	L	S	A
I	S	L	N	T	O	O	L	H	S	E	R	F	E	R
T	E	U	A	U	E	R	S	E	H	A	S	E	R	G
S	G	F	N	K	O	S	K	T	O	K	I	R	I	E
A	L	H	A	B	W	L	A	S	E	D	L	F	A	K
R	U	T	C	O	A	E	D	I	H	K	E	F	H	N
C	D	O	L	U	R	T	I	M	E	Y	N	R	C	I
O	N	L	E	B	O	R	H	M	L	A	C	A	I	H
R	I	S	Y	Z	O	C	R	E	S	T	E	D	L	T
P	A	J	A	M	A	S	U	M	M	E	R	O	B	B

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Bed, Blankets, Bore, Break, Breather, Calm, Chair, Couch, Cozy, Cure, Doze, Drowse, Fatigue, Hide, Idle, Indulge, Lax, Loaf, Loiter, Lounge, Mellow, Movies, Munchies, Nap, Novel, Pajamas, Pillows, Procrastinate, Read, Recharge, Reflects, Refresh, Rested, Restore, Robe, Silence, Slothful, Summer, Sunbathe, Takeout, Think, Time, Tired, Unwind, Weak, Work-shy

Yesterday's Answer: Shellac

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 35, 36, 37 or 38**, call 1-800-642-6480. Order online at: wonderword.universaluclick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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CYC CORPORATION dba CYC Kagman Market

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening date: September 30, 2013
Closing Date: October 9, 2013

Position : **(1) Store Manager**
Salary : $6.00- $7.00 per hour
Job Qualification : Must have 5 yrs experience in managing retail operations. Chinese language highly preferred. A valid drivers license required. Flexible Time is required. Honest and trustworthy.

Position : **(1) Accountant**
Salary : $5.55 per hour
Job Qualification : Bachelor in Accountancy. Minimum of 5 yrs experience. Must have a clear understanding of Federal and CNMI tax laws (can compute and file taxes). Must be knowledgeable and experienced in purchasing, inventory, payroll, and bank reconciliation. Ability to prepare financial reports. Proficient in various computer software: MS Excel, Word and accounting software.

Interested applicants must have their own reliable transportation. Applicants must submit their resume at **CYC Kagman Market**, located near Kagman Elementary School. **NO PHONE CALLS.**

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- Large recently renovated house
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Requirements:
Applicant must be High School Graduate or GED equivalent. Must be CERTIFIED LIFEGUARD, and must have valid Lifeguard Certification Certificate. Must have previous hospitality and lifeguard experience required. Must be U.S. Citizen or Green Card Holder, A definite Team Player and flexible with different work schedules at times.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Open Date: 9/24/13 **Closing Date: 10/04/13**

Position: (1) Asst. Manager, Sales & Mkgt. **Salary:** $1,850.00 monthly
Job Qualification: AA Degree / College Graduated / (5) Years Experience. Japanese Speaking, write monthly report to Head Office in Japan

Position: (1) Asst. Manager, Sales & Mkgt. **Salary:** $1,887.00 monthly
Job Qualification: AA Degree / College Graduated / (5) Years Experience. Korean Speaking. Handle Korean and Russian market.

Position: (1) Executive Chef **Salary:** $ 2,397.00 monthly
Job Qualification: College Graduated / (5) Years Experience. Japanese Speaking, write monthly report to Head Office in Japan.

Position: (1) Sous Chef **Salary:** $1,887.00 monthly
Job Qualification: College Graduated / (5) Years Experience.

Position: Asst. Manager, Maintenance **Salary:** $2,040.00 monthly
Job Qualification: College Graduated/Mechanical Engineer / (2) Years Experience.

Position: (2) Supervisor, Front Desk **Salary:** $8.16 per hour
Job Qualification: minimum AA Degree / College Graduated / (2) Years Experience. Preferably Japanese Speaking.

Position: (1) Accountant **Salary:** $6.63 per hour
Job Qualification: AA Degree / College Graduated / (2) Years Experience.

Position: (8) Waitress/Waiter **Salary:** $5.55 to $5.67 per hour
Job Qualification: High School Graduated / (2) Years Experience.

Position: (3) Electrician **Salary:** $5.55 to $5.67 per hour
Job Qualification: High School Graduated / (5) Years Experience.

For more information you may contact Mr. Juan I. Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-6495/8 ext. 5840/2.
Employment application forms are available at Hafadai Beach Hotel, Human Resources Department.

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Rays to playoffs again after 5-2 win over Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—The first person David Price looked for after pitching the Tampa Bay Rays into the playoffs was third baseman Evan Longoria.

Price yelled after the two locked eyes, and they embraced to start the celebration.

"He just told me that he had a dream about it," Longoria said. "It was awesome to feel that emotion from him. That's what an ace does, that's what a leader of a staff does. It was awesome to watch."

Price, Longoria and the Tampa Bay Rays are going to playoffs again, getting there with a victory in their final regular-season game for the second time in three years. They needed an extra game this time.

Price pitched his fourth complete game this year, Longoria hit a two-run homer and the Rays beat the Texas Rangers 5-2 in the AL wild-card tiebreaker game Monday night, the 163rd game for both teams.

When Price woke up Monday, all he could think about was throwing a complete game, then getting that last out and turning straight to Longoria.

"You're probably supposed to go to your catcher first, but for what he's done for us and what he's done for me personally," Price said. "I think about that type of stuff before I pitch all the time, but for it to happen today. I didn't want to text him when I thought about it. I didn't want to jinx it."

Luckily for manager Joe Maddon and the Rays, they weren't done in by another blown call in Texas—though this one did cost them at least one run.

The Rays face another must-win situation Wednesday night at Cleveland in the AL wild-card game, Tampa's third game in three cities in a four-day stretch. The winner faces Boston in the division series.

Tampa Bay Rays' Sam Fuld, left, steals third base as Texas Rangers' Adrian Beltre dives for a wild throw by Tanner Scheppers during the ninth inning of an American League wild-card tiebreaker baseball game Monday, Sept. 30, 2013, in Arlington, Texas. Fuld scored on the throw. The Rays won 5-2, and advance to face the Cleveland Indians in the American League wild-card playoff.

Price (10-8), the reigning AL Cy Young winner, had a 10.26 ERA in four previous starts at Rangers Ballpark. He was superb in this one, striking out four and walking one. He picked off two runners while allowing seven hits and throwing 81 of 118 pitches for strikes.

"If I don't get those two outs on the pickoff moves, I have to get the next guys out," Price said. "It forces me to throw at least 10 more pitches."

Longoria had three hits, continuing his stellar play in the last game of regular seasons. He is hitting .579 (11 for 19) in those finales with seven homers and 10 RBIs, according to STATS.

"I wish I could explain it," he said. "I wish I could bottle it up and take it through 161 games and not have it be on the last day."

Texas had won seven in a row, needing every one just to force the majors' first wild-card tiebreaker since 2007.

Even with the return of All-Star slugger Nelson Cruz from his 50-game drug suspension, the Rangers missed a chance to get to the playoffs for the fourth year in a row.

"I'm disappointed. We didn't get it done," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "I've got no excuse for that."

Cruz, who had 27 homers and 76 RBIs in 108 games before his suspension, was 0 for 4 with a strikeout while hitting sixth as the designated hitter. His groundout to shortstop ended the game.

The Rays had runners at first and second with two outs in the seventh when Delmon Young, who put the Rays ahead to stay with a sacrifice fly in the first, hit a soft flyball.

Center fielder Leonys Martin made a running, diving attempt for a catch. Replays showed clearly that the ball bounced into Martin's glove; left field umpire Bruce Dreckman, looking at the play from the side, ruled it an inning-ending catch.

Young rounded first base with his arms spread out signaling safe. Maddon went out to talk to Kulpa, though the conversation didn't appear heated.

"Thankfully, it didn't come back to bite us," Longoria said.

When the Rays played at Texas on April 8, their 5-4 loss ended when plate umpire Marty Foster called a third strike against Ben Zobrist on a pitch low and outside. The ump later admitted the 2-2 curveball wasn't a strike and he wouldn't call that pitch a strike if he could do it again. The Texas win and closer Joe Nathan's 300th career save stood.

Maddon said after that game that such calls "can't be made in a Major League Baseball game." The Rays still had a runner on base and Longoria on deck when Zobrist was called out.

MLB intends to use expanded video review next year.

The Rangers had beaten Tampa Bay in the AL division series in 2010 and 2011 on way to their only two World Series. It was the second year in a row their season ended in a do-or-die game at home—they lost to Baltimore in the first AL wild-card game last October.

"I'm happy that we don't have to play them anymore," Longoria said. " It's fitting we had to go down this road. It feels really good to be able to leave here celebrating instead of with our heads down."

In 2011, the Rays had to overcome a nine-game deficit the final month of the season and were down seven runs in their 162nd game. They got to the playoffs after Longoria's game-ending homer in the 12th inning to beat the New York Yankees.

The first four hitters in the game against rookie left-hander Martin Perez (10-6) combined for three singles and a walk, and yet the Rays still didn't have a run.

Desmond Jennings, in his first start in more than a week after left hamstring tightness, hit the game's first pitch down the left-field line. He was thrown out trying to stretch the hit to a double when Craig Gentry made a strong throw.

Cubs fire manager Dale Sveum after 2 seasons

CHICAGO (AP)—Theo Epstein is proud of the talent in the Chicago Cubs' minor league system. The president of baseball operations thinks Dale Sveum is going to be a successful manager one day.

He just doesn't think Sveum is the right guy to help all those prospects become successful major leaguers.

The Cubs fired Sveum on Monday after finishing last in the NL Central for the first time in seven years, ending a two-year run that produced more losses than any other stretch in the team's cursed history.

"It's absolutely imperative that we create the best environment possible for young players to come up here, continue to learn, continue to develop and thrive at the big league level and win, ultimately," Epstein said during an afternoon news conference. "And that's not an easy thing to do.

"A big part of the reason why we're here today is because we took a good hard look at that and we decided that we needed to try to get it right before they come up."

Sveum was among Epstein's first hires after the executive came over from the Boston Red Sox in 2011. He had little experience as a manager when he agreed to take the job, and he knew the Cubs were at the very beginning of a top-to-bottom overhaul that they hoped would transform them into perennial contenders.

He just thought he would get more time to make it work.

"You come in and you get a job like this and you want to see it through and so you're very disappointed you didn't get to really get anything started," Sveum said in a parking lot outside Wrigley Field.

Sveum, who had one year left on his contract, said he thought he was fine before Epstein said during Chicago's trip to Milwaukee in mid-September that the manager was being evaluated.

"That was about when things got started," Sveum said.

While praising Sveum's time in Chicago and his growth with the Cubs, Epstein disputed the notion that the manager was blindsided by the move. He said Sveum had been aware of some concern in the front office for some time.

"We met shortly after the All-Star break, a long meeting, a long, difficult, brutally honest meeting where we explained the areas where we felt like we needed to see improvement," Epstein said. "We told him, `We are meeting with you because for the first time there are some concerns about whether you're the long-term guy and you deserve to hear that feedback from us and you deserve the second half of the season to work on those areas.'"

Epstein said he also talked to Sveum before he made his comments in Milwaukee and let him know there were still discussions going on in the front office about whether he would be retained for next season.

In the end, they decided to make a change.

Chicago went 61-101 in Sveum's first season, and then stumbled down the stretch in 2013 while some of its best players were traded away for prospects. The Cubs dropped 41 of their final 59 games, including six of their final seven, finishing with a 66-96 record.

Hearing on Alex Rodriguez's 211-game suspension starts

NEW YORK (AP)—The grievance to overturn Alex Rodriguez's 211-game suspension began Monday before arbitrator Fredric Horowitz.

The New York Yankees third baseman was wearing a business suit and accompanied by lawyers when he arrived for the session at Major League Baseball's headquarters in midtown Manhattan.

A three-time AL MVP, Rodriguez was suspended Aug. 5 for alleged violations of baseball's drug agreement and labor contract. Because he's a first offender under the drug program and the players' association filed a grievance to force an appeal, a suspension can't start until it is upheld by an arbitrator.

The union argues the discipline is without just cause and is excessive. If the case doesn't settle, a decision by Horowitz is expected this winter.

Rodriguez was among 14 players penalized by MLB this year following the sport's investigation of Biogenesis of America, a closed anti-aging clinic in Coral Gables, Fla., accused of distributing banned performance-enhancing drugs. The others accepted their penalties, including former NL MVP Ryan Braun, who missed the season's final 65 games.

Biogenesis head Anthony Bosch was at the hearing to testify - a publicist released a photo of him in a hallway outside MLB's conference rooms.

In Florida, state authorities said they had started a criminal investigation of the clinic.

''A subpoena was issued for documents, and we are looking into several areas of state interest," said Ed Griffith, spokesman for Miami-Dade County State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle.

Brees leads Saints to 38-17 win over Dolphins

NEW ORLEANS (AP)— Drew Brees made his latest claim to the moniker of Mr. Monday Night.

He also gave the Miami Dolphins another reason to regret not making a harder push to sign him when they had the chance seven years ago.

Brees passed for 413 yards and four touchdowns, and the New Orleans Saints turned a clash of unbeaten teams into a lopsided affair, beating Miami 38-17 on Monday night.

"I felt like we found our rhythm," Brees said. "Every time we touched the ball, it felt like we were going to go down and score points."

Two of Brees' touchdowns went to Jimmy Graham for 27 and 43 yards as the tight end had at least 100 yards receiving for the third straight game.

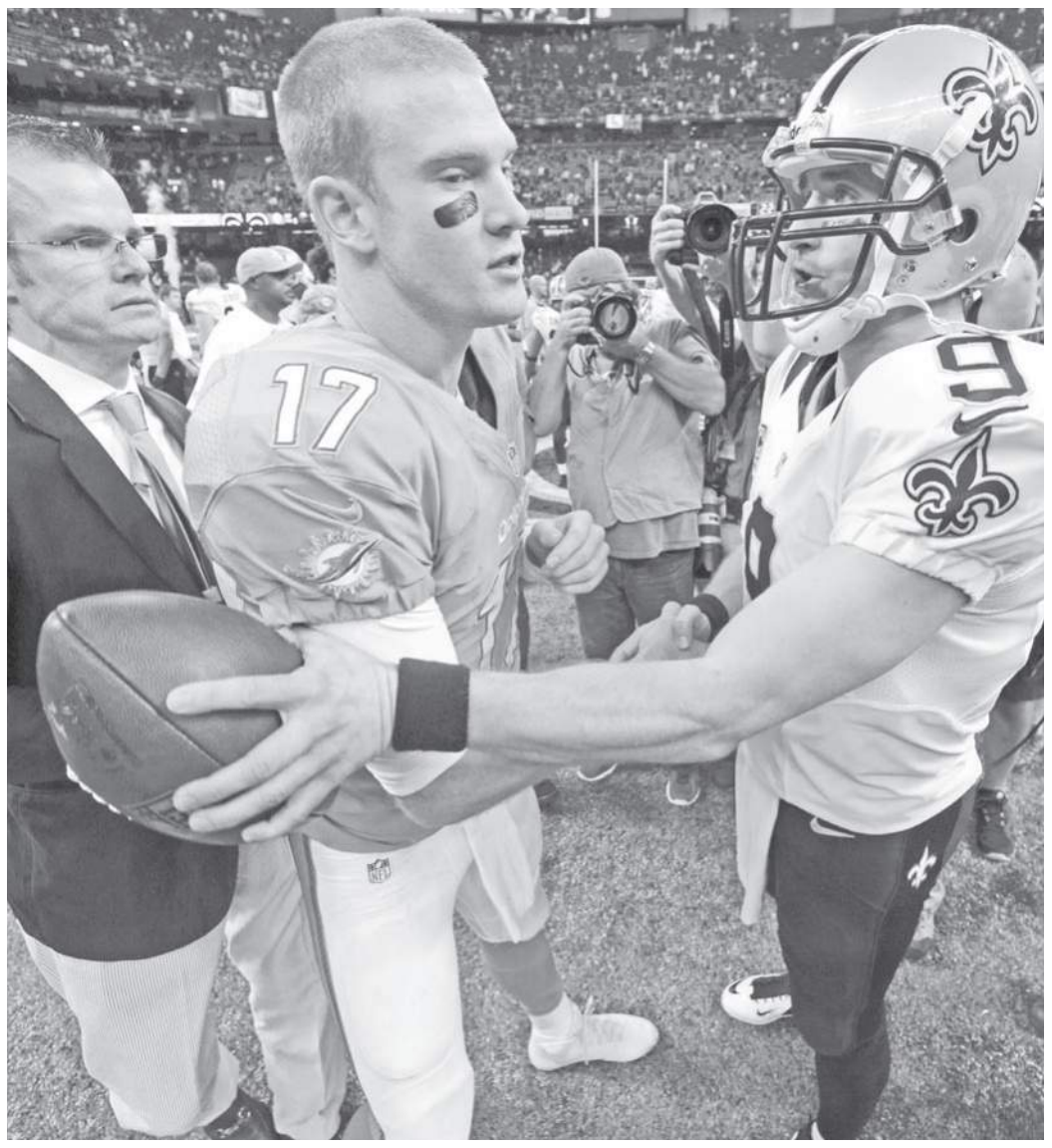
Brees' other scoring strikes went to Benjamin Watson and Darren Sproles, who also rushed for a touchdown.

"He plays out of this world," Graham said. "This team is so dynamic, we have so many weapons and Drew knows exactly where to go with the ball."

Sproles' 5-yard scoring run on the game's opening series gave the Saints a lead they would not relinquish en route to their first 4-0 start since their Super Bowl championship season of 2009. It also further accentuated what a turnaround the Saints have made since coach Sean Payton served his bounty ban last season, which New Orleans opened with four losses.

"We like this a lot better," Brees said of the 4-0 start. "Everything that could have gone wrong for us went wrong. Fortunately we're having the ball bounce our way this year. We're playing good football."

Ryan Tannehill passed for 249 yards and a touchdown to Charles Clay, but his four turnovers on a fumble and three interceptions hurt Miami (3-1).



Miami Dolphins quarterback Ryan Tannehill (17) and New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) shake hands after an NFL football game in New Orleans, Monday, Sept. 30, 2013. The Saints won, 38-17.

"We're not happy. Obviously you don't want to come out and perform like that," Tannehill said. "But you look at it and there are things you can correct."

The Saints have won their last nine Monday night games, all with Brees at quarterback and often putting on some of his most memorable performances.

There was his 307-yard, four-TD performance against Atlanta late in the 2011 season, the same game in which he broke Dan Marino's 27-year-old record for yards passing in a season.

Earlier that same season, Brees threw for 363 yards and four scores in a 49-24 Monday night win over the New York Giants.

The Saints' Super Bowl campaign was highlighted by Brees' 371 yards and five touchdowns in New Orleans' stunning 38-17 rout of Tom Brady and the New England Patriots.

Now his 10th career 400-yard outing has delivered a sobering blow to a Miami team that came in riding a surprising start.

"We'll find out a lot about the team we have by the way we come back tomorrow," Miami coach Joe Philbin said.

When Brees was a free agent in 2006, he drew the most interest from New Orleans and Miami, but the Dolphins, fearful of the effects of reconstructive surgery on Brees throwing shoulder, did not pursue the quarterback as enthusiastically as then-Saints rookie coach Sean Payton. Since then, Brees has become one of the most prolific quarterbacks in NFL history.

During New Orleans' opening drive, Brees became only the seventh quarterback to pass for more than 47,000 yards. He ended the drive with 47,030, surpassing Fran Tarkenton's 47,003 for sixth most yards passing all-time.

Later, Brees' eighth completion gave him 4,124 in his career, one more than John Elway for fourth all-time in that category.

Brees was 30 of 39 against Miami without an interception. Sproles caught seven passes for 114 yards. Marques Colston had seven catches for 96 yards.

Miami's Lamar Miller had 62 yards rushing on 11 carries, including a 5-yard scoring run late in the second quarter that made it 14-10, but the Saints began to run away with the game after that, and as they did, they turned up their pass rush. Tannehill was sacked four times in the second half, once each by Junior Galette, Martez Wilson, Cameron Jordan and Tyrunn Walker.

"I just don't feel that team was as good as everybody was saying they were," Galette said of Miami. "We just abused the offensive line all game."

New Orleans' defense, worst in the league last season but resurgent under new coordinator Rob Ryan, also allowed fewer than 20 points for the fourth time in as many games.

Miami was driving for a potential go-ahead score in the second quarter when Tannehill tried to scramble up the middle and was stripped by linebacker Curtis Lofton. Safety Rafael Bush recovered on the New Orleans 38. That set up a drive that ended with Graham's leaping, juggling catch as three defenders converged on him.

Later in the half, Jabari Greer intercepted a pass intended for Brian Hartline and returned it 22 yards to the Miami 23. Several plays later, Sproles made a catch along the left sideline, spun away from a converging defender and scored his second touchdown with 55 seconds left in the half to make it 21-10.

Toronto to host 2016 NBA All-Star game

TORONTO (AP)—The 2016 NBA All-Star game is coming to Toronto, and the Raptors are looking to one of the music industry's biggest stars to help revamp the franchise in time for the festivities.

NBA deputy commissioner Adam Silver made the announcement Monday, marking the first time Toronto will hold the league's annual showcase.

Canadian rap star Drake and Mayor Rob Ford were among those at the news conference. The Raptors also announced that Drake will be their "global ambassador" and have a voice in the team's rebranding.

Tim Lieweke, president and CEO of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, said the team is in the process of planning a major face-lift that will include a new look and new colors. Drake will be heavily involved in the effort, which is expected to take the next two seasons.

"I'm really out here with the people. I'm in touch with what they want to see," Drake said. "I really just want excitement for this team. I want us to be one of the biggest teams in the league."

Lieweke called this the beginning of a "new age" for the Raptors.

"This is a team and this is a sport that is going to rock this city going forward," he said. "Good days are coming and we couldn't be more excited."

But the Raptors have a long way to go on the court. They haven't made the playoffs since 2008.

"We have now a responsibility to grow our basketball team so that it meets the momentum of the All-Star game," new general manager Masai Ujiri said. "We promise you in Toronto that we're going to bring the best basketball."

Silver is optimistic the Raptors will turn things around.

"By the time we come here for the All-Star game there will be a winning tradition in Toronto," he promised.

The NBA All-Star game will be held in New Orleans in 2014 and in New York in 2015. The NHL played its All-Star game in Toronto in 2000. The Toronto Blue Jays hosted baseball's showcase in 1991.

Lieweke estimated that an NBA All-Star game usually generates about $100 million for the host city. But he predicted Toronto will eclipse that, saying he and Drake have been discussing making the festivities about more than basketball and music.

"We're already talking about fashion, we're talking about films, we're talking about food, we're talking about all the things ... that are the trademark of this great city," Lieweke said. "We certainly see it as an opportunity to let everyone see all the phenomenal parts of Toronto."

Spurs return, NBA Finals defeat still seems fresh

SAN ANTONIO (AP)— Family vacations, scouting, free agency, rest and relaxation, playing in the European Championships.

The staff and players of the San Antonio Spurs had a hectic offseason, but not even the busiest day this summer could make them forget what might have been just three months ago.

San Antonio was five seconds away from winning its fifth NBA title only to watch the Miami Heat rally for an improbable 103-100 overtime victory in Game 6. Almost as heartbreaking was a 95-88 loss in Game 7 that gave the Heat their second consecutive title and handed the Spurs their first series loss in the NBA Finals.

"Suffice to say I've thought about it every day," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "I'm wondering if it will go away, I'm anxious for it to happen, but it hasn't happened yet."

Returning to the court as a team should help ease the pain. That's what the players and coaches are hoping for.

The Spurs open a four-day training camp in Tuesday at the Air Force Academy near Colorado Springs, Colo.

"As time goes on, as we all know in our lives, you get back to the day-to-day stuff pretty easily, because it's the nature of life," Popovich said. "Basketball might be like the 11th- or 12th-most important thing on your list. So, it's time to get over it."

That's the mentality the veteran Spurs take into their 18th season under Popovich, but it's one that will be different in a number of ways.

San Antonio's Big Three of Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili return to a roster basically unchanged from last season. Still, the bench is going to look vastly different after assistants Mike Budenholzer and Brett Brown left to become head coaches at Atlanta and Philadelphia, respectively.

"We really don't know yet (what impact the departures will have)," Ginobili said. "But, for sure, we're going to miss them. If any of us had a doubt during the game we would go bother Brett probably before Pop because Pop is doing so many things and controlling other stuff that if you have a question you go to them because you knew they were going to think the same as Pop."

Jim Boylen, formerly of the Pacers, was added to the coaching staff along with former Spurs player Sean Marks. Popovich joked he may turn over player instruction during training camp to his Big Three because he will be too busy "coaching the coaches."

The Spurs have added Marco Belinelli, Corey Maggette, Sam Young and Jeff Ayres, who changed his surname from Pendergraph in the offseason, through free agency. Maggette and Young will compete to spell Kawhi Leonard, the talented third-year forward who is expected to take on a bigger role in the team's offense after a breakout campaign last year.

Leonard averaged 11.9 points and 6.0 rebounds last season and had a career playoff-high 22 points as well as 11 rebounds and three steals in Game 6 against Miami.

CNMI invited to youth and sports conference

The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association(NMASA) has announced that the CNMI has been given two slots to the 2013 Pacific Youth and Sports Conference that will be held in Noumea, New Caledonia from Dec. 2 to 7.

NMASA will select two university students, one male and one female, to attend the conference. The students selected will receive round-trip air fare, internal transfers in New Caledonia, room, board, and all conference fees.

The conference is a tool for college and university students to develop and pursue social projects in their communities. This year's conference themes are tackling non-communicable diseases; preventing STDs and teenage pregnancy; improving mental health; promoting school attendance; developing life skills; and promoting active citizenship.

Conference participants will increase their knowledge on health, education and social challenges in their countries. They will also learn how to use sports for development to tackle these issues, share their best practices and work on developing projects to implement after the conference, and build projects.

After the conference, participants, in partnership with their governments, NGOs, youth and sport organizations, will take ownership of the projects developed to tackle social issues that affect them. They will implement, monitor and evaluate these projects. Participants will also be required to volunteer for three days in connection with NMASA events and programs.

The conference is held under the patronage of the United Nations Office for Sport for Development and Peace, and is sponsored by the Oceania Football Confederation, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and the Government of New Caledonia. Event Partners include the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA), the Government of Australia, the Olympic Sports Federations of Oceania (OSFO), the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the Pacific Youth Council.

Further information about this year's conference can be found at pyasc.org.

To be eligible for selection to attend the Conference, an applicant must be a United States citizen and a full-time student at any college or university. To apply, send the following information to NMASA, by email to mwhite@saipan.com: a copy of the information page of your United States Passport; a certification from your college or university that you are a full-time student during the fall semester; and a letter, not to exceed 250 words, explaining why you believe you should be selected to represent NMASA at the conference, what you hope to accomplish at the conference, and how you propose to implement what you learn when you return to the CNMI.

Applications must be received by 5pm on Oct. 16. No extensions will be granted. For further information, contact NMASA by email at mwhite@saipan.com. ***(PR)***

Belichick: Wilfork likely will miss rest of season

By HOWARD ULMAN
AP SPORTS WRITER

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Vince Wilfork was pursuing a play when he planted his right foot, dropped to the ground and probably ended his season.

"It doesn't look too good for Vince," New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick said Monday on WEEI radio. "I think he's got a pretty serious injury and it's probably unlikely that he'll be able to play again this year."

The Boston Globe reported that the star defensive tackle tore his right Achilles tendon in Sunday's 30-23 win over the Atlanta Falcons. Belichick did not specify the injury. Wilfork's agent, Kennard McGuire, did not respond to requests for comment.

At his news conference earlier Monday, Belichick said he didn't know much about Wilfork's injury or whether he would miss most or all of the remaining games. He said he hadn't met yet with medical personnel.

But as the injuries to key Patriots players pile up—Wilfork is a five-time Pro Bowl selection—so do the victories.

They're 4-0 despite missing one of the NFL's best tight ends, Rob Gronkowski, for all those games, as he recovers from forearm and back surgery, and their top wide receiver, Danny Amendola, for the last three with a groin injury.

"We always talk about next man up. We have a lot of talented guys on our team," linebacker Jerod Mayo said. "Guys really stepped up and played well for us. We ended up getting the victory."

When Wilfork left, undrafted rookie Joe Vellano stepped in and got a sack. And Chris Jones, cut by Houston and Tampa Bay after the Texans drafted him in the sixth round this year, saw his first action with the Patriots. So they're thin at defensive tackle behind the other starter, Tommy Kelly.

"He has good instincts, kind of has a nose for the ball and a good feel for what's going on," Belichick said of Vellano. "He's still got a long way to go but definitely making progress."

Jones, he said, is "just overall getting familiar with what we do, our calls, his assignments, block reactions. All those kind of things have gotten better over the last couple weeks."

But no one plays quite like Wilfork, a defensive captain Belichick calls "a great leader." His 325-pound frame demands double teams, opening up space for teammates to make tackles. And he's been very healthy, until now.

Sunday's game was the 166th of his career, including the postseason. He's played in 160 and started 148.

"Obviously, Vince has been a staple for a long time," said Mayo, another defensive captain. "He rarely goes out with injuries so it was very shocking and surprising to see my friend go down like that."

Wilfork was hurt on the 10th play of the Falcons' opening series. He was blocked lightly by left guard Justin Blalock, who then ran to his left to block on a pass to Julio Jones. Wilfork changed direction to run toward the action when his right leg gave way. The Patriots said he had an ankle injury, and he didn't return.

On the sideline, Tom Brady talked with Wilfork, then patted him on the shoulder. A short time later, Wilfork was sitting on the back of a cart, his right leg bare below the knee, with Dr. Thomas Gill, the team physician, by his side as they headed off the field.

AP

Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan (2) is sacked by New England Patriots defensive tackle Joe Vellano (72) during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Sept. 29, 2013, in Atlanta.

WILD BILL'S

From Page 28

Godfather's.

Zheng Xu scored the winning goal for Tan Holdings about two minutes before the match ended, while Joe Miller drilled the three other goals to help his team secure the come-from-behind win. Tan Holdings trailed at the break, 0-2, as Jeff Castro and Matthew Holey nailed one goal apiece for Inter Godfather's, scoring in the 19th and 26th minute, respectively.

Miller then began Tan Holding's recovery with a goal right into the first minute of the second half. Two minutes later, Peter Loken answered back to make it a 3-1 lead for Inter Godfather's before Miller continued carrying Tan Holdings on his shoulders and Xu stepped in to steal the victory. Miller scored his next two goals off penalty shots in the 53rd and 72nd minute.

KFAS 3, Matansa 1

In the third game last weekend, Korean Football Association on Saipan got goals from three different players to beat Matansa FC.

Sung Su Jung, Brian Lee, and Jun Woo Lee contributed one goal apiece for KFAS, which fell behind early, 0-1, after allowing Thomas Mandumpala to score in the seventh minute. Jung made it to the board in the 10th minute to even up the count, while Brian Lee and Jun Woo Lee notched their respective goals in the second half.

MP United 9, Kanoa 1

MP United played in the last game in Week 1 and also posted the biggest winning margin.

Jireh Yobech heated up MP United's offense with back-to-back goals in the first half (8th and 18th minute), while Adam Hardwicke added one to make it a 3-0 lead at halftime.

Joyner then opened the scoring for MP United in the second half with his goal in the 55th minute, while Yobech completed a hat-trick five minutes later. Now ahead at 5-0, MP United kept going with Dan Westphal contributing two goals (60th and 80th), and Jason Warren and Greg Sablan chipping in one apiece after scoring in the 72nd and 85th, respectively.

Kanoa avoided a shutout after getting a goal from Yoshi Mafnas in the 74th minute.

DIVISION 2
Shirley's 3, Women's National Team 0

In the second game in Division 2, Shirley's FC gave the Women's National Team a rude welcome to the M-League with a shutout victory last Thursday.

Jack Phan logged two goals for Shirley's, while Louis Ryu Hoin registered the other goal for the winning squad. The Women's National Team is playing in the M-League to prepare for future off-island competitions.

Sun Palace 3, Thundercats 3

In the other Division 2 match, Sun Palace and the Thundercats had a draw last Wednesday.

Guanglin Li scored all three goals for Sun Palace, while Makani Gramlich had two for the Thundercats, including the game-tying one in the second half. Yong Jeon recorded the other goal for the Thundercats. Li hit his first two goals in a span of two minutes (38th and 40th minute), while Jeon put the Thundecats in the board earlier with his goal in the 16th. The Thundercats stretched the advantage to 2-0 before Li came out strong late in the first half to force a standoff at halftime.

BATTING

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weekend's matches for a batting average of .464. Tenorio slid to third with his .433 off a 13-for-30 performance at the plate.

The Yankees' M.J. Sakisat and the Braves' A.J. Lizama remained tied for the No. 4 spot with identical batting averages of .357 and 10-for-28 clip. Two more Yankees also made it to the Top 10 with Roke Tenorio (10-for-29/.345 and Darion Jones (11-for-34/.324) in sixth and seventh place, respective, while the Giants' Franco Nakamura (10-for-31/.323), the Braves' A.J. Evangelista (9-for-29/.310), and the Braves' Lancaster Secharmidal (9-fo-30 /.300) rounding out the group.

Lancaster's younger brother and teammate, Verlance occupies the No. 11 spot after going 8-for-29 (.276), followed by the Giants' Kenji Yamagata (7-for-29/.241), the Braves' Lucio Kalen (7-for-30/.233), the Giants' Jesse Brel (7-for-30/.233), and the Braves' K.J. Kalen (6-for-29/.207).

In the pitching race, Lifoifoi solidified his grip to the No. 1 spot after maintaining a 0.00 ERA. In 13 innings pitched, the Braves ace did not give up a single earned run, though four runs were made with him on the mound.

The Giants' Jesse Brel is in second place with his 0.46 ERA, while the Padres' Kainoa Wanket had the biggest leap from the group, moving to third from 10th place last week. Brel pitched 15.1 innings and gave up 6 runs (only one earned). Wanket worked 16.1 innings and allowed only two earned runs for his 0.86 ERA.

Completing the Top 10 are the Dodgers' Brian Camacho (0.88), the Tigers' Keene Leon Guerrero (0.93), Bret Halstead (1.00), the Yankees' Darion Jones (1.11), the Braves' Logan Martin (1.17), the Tigers' Jose Lizama (1.47), and the Yankees' Gino Dela Cruz (1.47).

Though he was last in the Top 10 pitching leaders, Jose Lizama is ahead in the strikeouts chart, tying Camacho's 22. Lifoifoi and Jones are also in a deadlock at second with their similar 20 Ks. Martin has 19 to take the No. 5 spot, followed by Brel (18), Nakamura (16), Keene Deleon Guerrero (15), the Yankees' Greg Iskawa (14), and the Cardinals' Davie Matagolai (12).

In other categories, the Giants' K.J. Deleon Guerrero and Verlance Secharmidal share the lead in the runs race with their 12 apiece; Jones and Khobby Kaipat are tied in doubles with 4 each; the Braves' Cody Kaipat is alone on top in triples with his 2; and the Giants' Devyn Flores leads in RBIs with 7.

SHAKIR

From Page 28

to keep PIC afloat, while Shakir Realty matched its foe's output with its balance scoring.

Shakir Realty had another 15-point production in the third to stretch its lead to double digits for the first time, 39-26. PIC faded away at the start of the second half with Ballesteros held scoreless in the third and the entire team drilled only two field goals and 7 points.

Shakir Realty went on to keep the comfortable lead in the fourth quarter and began celebrating its debut win midway in that final canto, as the benchwarmers came in to play.

Joselino Canoy top-scored for Shakir Realty with his 13 points, while Ernie Moises chipped in 10, and Mike Surima and Art Montes combined for 17 markers. Ballesteros and Tolentino paced PIC with 11 points apiece.

Shakir Realty 56 – Canoy 13, Moises 10, Surima 9, Montes 8, Bautista 3, Patawaran 3, Sevilla 2, Imbo 2, Paraiso 2, Guirey.

Pacific Islands Club 42 – Ballesteros 11, Tolentino 11, Baterina 10, K. Ricafort 4, Hernandez 2, J. Ricarfort 2, Reyes 2.

Scoring by quarters: 9-4, 24-19, 39-26, 56-42.

CNMI U16 National Team at AFC Qualifying Tournament

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Players and officials of the CNMI U16 National Team pose with the Philippine U16 National Team as they cross path at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila on their way to their respective competition venues.

Some members of the Teen Ayuyus do drills while waiting for their connecting flight from Manila to China.

Officials of the CNMI U16 National Team pose with their counterparts on the Philippine Team.

CNMI and Myanmar line up waiting for the start of their game in the AFC U16 Qualifying Tournament at the Hankou Culture and Sports Stadium in Wuhan, China.

CNMI and Myanmar players head to the pitch.

Some members of the Teen Ayuyus listen to pre-game briefing.

The scoreboard for the game between the CNMI and eventual winner North Korea.

CNMI Team physiotherapist Pam Carhill of Marianas Health Service poses with a volunteer from the organizing group after a site visit at the Hankou Culture and Sports Stadium in Wuhan, China.

Members and officials of the CNMI U16 National Team pose for a photo in front of one of the sites they visited in Wuhan.

Players and officials of the CNMI U16 National Team head to their hotel after several flight delays.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Wild Bill's leads winners in opening week

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Spring season champion Wild Bill's was among the winners in the opening week of the fall season of the M-League, as it edged Paire FC, 2-1, in A Division 1 game last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Youth player Tanapon Unsa made the twin goals for Wild Bill's, while Trey Dunn scored the lone goal for Paire. Dunn was the first one to light up the board, as he attacked near the right corner of the penalty area in the 30th minute and Wild Bill's Glenn Smith failed to stop him, as the ball crossed to the left side of the goal.

Paire kept the shaky 1-0 lead past the halfway mark of the second and final half before Unsa eluded his defenders and tied the match with a goal in the 70th. Then 12 minutes later, Unsa found the back of the net anew to give Wild Bill's a good start in the spring season.

Tan Holdings 4, Inter Godfather's 3

The first game last Sunday was also a close match with Tan Holdings slipping past Inter

See WILD BILL'S on Page 26

Wild Bill's goalie Glenn Smith tries to prevent Paire FC's Trey Dunn from scoring during the first half of their Division 1 game in the M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Batting, pitching leaders hang on

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Padres batter is hit by a pitch during their game against the Cardinals late last month in the Triple A baseball league at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Padres' Khobby Kaipat and the Braves' J.J. Lifoifoi kept their hold to the top spot in the batting and pitching races in the 2nd Annual DYS/Triple A Youth Baseball League after last Saturday's games at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Kaipat improved his batting average from .481 to .485 after going 16-for-33 at the plate. He leads 14 other batters, including the Dodgers' Craig Aguon, who moved up from third to second, booting out the Braves' Patrick Tenorio. Aguon was 13-for-28 after last

See BATTING on Page 26

Shakir Realty eases past PIC, 56-42

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shakir Realty completed the opening day winners in the 2013 UFO-Budweiser Masters Division Basketball League after coasting past Pacific Islands Club, 56-42, last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

Shakir Realty and PIC played in the last game of the opener and joined early winners Kanoa Resort (Open) and Degree/UPAA (Masters), which defeated the Hoopaholics, 71-70, and Armatech/MDX, 70-56, respectively.

With both teams playing their first game, Shakir Realty and PIC were sluggish in the opening 10 minutes of play before the former slowly got its form in the last three quarters en route to the 14-point win. Neither squad broke into twin digits in scoring in the first period, but Shakir Realty managed to take a 9-4 lead, as PIC was held to two field goals. Five points still separated PIC and Shakir Realty after the first half, as both teams tallied 15 points in the second frame. Carlos Ballesteros converted three triples in the second period

See SHAKIR on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shakir Realty's Mike Guirey is left open for a jumper during their game against Pacific Islands Club in the Masters division of the UFO caging last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.